

The

Desert Oracle



A Member Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America

February, March 2007 Vol. 9 Issue 2

This letter was sent to each SCI/D Social Worker at the three VA's in Arizona. The three individuals have sent responses that are on pages 6,7 & 8. The Primary Care SCI/D Clinics are an important part of your healthcare system. Please get to know your Social Worker, they are there to help.

Dear Social Worker,

The APVA is publishing various articles in our January Newsletter and we would like each of you to contribute information and a small picture if we do not have one. Please send us this information by January 5th, 2007.

1. Name
2. Office in the hospital (physical location)
3. Phone number with extension and fax number
4. Office hours
5. Alternates if applicable
6. Closest parking area for SCI/SCD patients (be precise)
7. Is there signage
8. Who to contact if after hours an emergency arises
9. Who to contact If brought to hospital via emergency vehicle
10. List of your areas of assistance
11. Protocols you would like followed for
 - a. Prosthetic issues
 - b. Pharmacy issues
 - c. Annual evaluations
 - d. Setting up appointments for life issues
12. Travel issues
13. Any background or general information you feel is relevant
Times of importance ie. Flu shots, available education.

I am sure each of you are very busy, we would truly appreciate your updating these areas so that we may all serve our veterans to the best of our abilities.

Thank you,

Arizona Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America

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Published Bi-Monthly

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The views expressed in the articles of the Desert Oracle are the opinions of the author and not necessarily the opinion of the AZPVA. Any article not attributed to an individual / group was compiled with available information by APVA staff/members. The Desert Oracle **does** encourage our readers to submit their articles, interests and/or rebuttals.



The New Year brings many events and plenty to do. This year Dick Sloviaczek Barrier Buster

Awards Luncheon is on April 21st at the Crescent Hotel on Dunlap and I-17. Please start looking in your mail for your invitations. We hope you all will try to attend.

The Chapter has been catching up and looking to the future, yet we can not forget what our first priority is; health care to our members and to all veterans with SCI/D issues. Recently during a Chapter review by Vice President Bill Lawson and National President Randy Pleva, the Chapter received the opportunity to get their perspective on our hospitals in Prescott, Phoenix and Tucson. This is the fourth visit from National personnel in three years and each one has brought improvement and a different perspective to the Chapter's approach in dealing with the individual systems we have here. The bar on health care has been raised over the last three years and we are looking forward to Sr. Vice President Gene Crayton to continuing to provide the Chapter with the same solid support he granted us as VP Liaison last year; and have come to expect from our National PVA President.

You will find articles in this edition of the Desert Oracle a response from all three SCI/D Primary Care Social Workers on a series of questions we sent them to provide each of you with information that will help you navigate through the VA healthcare system in your area of Arizona. Also we are publishing articles from our NSO's on different subjects that will assist

you in getting the services that you have earned as a veteran. If you have questions afterwards, please contact the office at 602-244-9168 and we will attempt to get them answered.

La Jolla is presently operating with two beds less then normal. (26 vs 28) So if you find your annuals being moved around; this is the reason. It has been explained that the hospital decided they no longer needed to pay the nurses a bonus for SCI duty. Then after realizing their mistake and before the hospital reinstated the extra pay, we lost some well trained staff members. For those of you who are unable to go to your annuals on your assigned dates please contact your Social Worker as soon as you know, so that someone else may be able to use your time.

Remember the elections are right after the Barrier Buster Luncheon and if you are a member in good standing, can be certified by National PVA and want to put some effort into improving the Arizona Chapter, contact Homer Townsend at the Chapter office. Homer is chairman of the election committee this year.

President, Arizona PVA





Hello to one and all!!!

Well, once again, it's time to start making well on all in those New Year's resolutions; or at least try to. It seems that many resolutions are to lose the Holiday weight too many of us tend to put on at this time of year. Some are to make amends with friends and relatives who've long been put on hold, and others are to simply get involved with things we've just not taken interest in thus far.

In making a call to National Paralyzed Veterans of America, 1(800)424-8200 and speaking with Joan Winkler, who is the Manager of Membership and Volunteers. We found that there are 4,098 veterans, (on record) who are diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). She did not know how many of these people were being treated at a Veteran's Administration (VA) Hospital.

Most of the veteran's, as I know from personal experience, may not be receiving treatment/benefits from the VA, or from the sources they may be entitled to such as Social Security. For many years after being diagnosed with MS, in 1991, I had no idea that there were any benefits entitled to me. For simply going to a wheelchair basketball game, and speaking with the, then Vice President of the Arizona Chapter for PVA Gordon Moye, the positive changes in my life have been literally life-changing.

We as Veteran's must help these people become more informed about the entitlements that may be available to them. We must inform others that Arizona PVA can/will assist them in

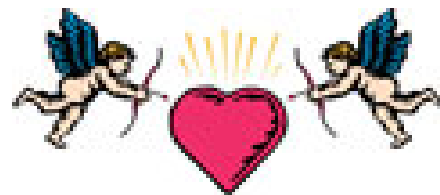
attaining those benefits. We must go out to the far corners of the world and...oops! Sorry.

There is an annual event called "Walk on the Wild Side". The goal is to raise money to end the devastating effects of this dreaded disease. The walk will start on April 14th, at Phoenix Municipal (Muni) Stadium. The walk will go in/around the Phoenix Zoo, and through the Desert Botanical Gardens. In Tucson, the walk will be on March 31, at the Desert Diamond Casino For more information about the starting time/place of the event call the MS office at 480 968-2488, 1(800) FIGHT-MS, or on-line at www.nationalmssociety.org/aza. I can also be contacted for any sponsorship monies, for my goal is to raise \$2,000-\$2,500 dollars for this years gathering. Arizona PVA will have a booth at the event, as well as have water for the various walkers, and a raffle, with all proceeds going to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS).

Please, become involved in sponsoring a walker, in walking for someone who can't, in giving to someone who asks for a donation to the walk; just become involved in anyway you can.

Sincerely,

Vice President
Arizona, PVA





I hope everyone has had a wonderful New Year.

For the month of January, I have met with Arizona Representative

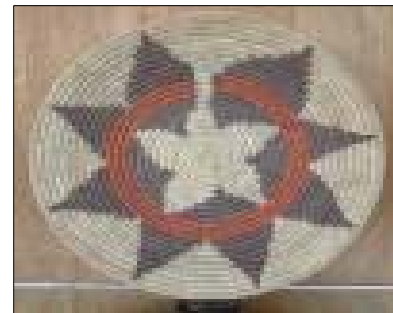
Albert Tom, and couple of staff members from the Navajo Nation Veterans office. We discussed some issues for the Navajo Veterans. The most important one is getting a VA Hospital on the Navajo Reservation or a CBOC (Community Base Outreach Clinic). Through the conversation that we had with the VA personnel, we found out that they do not have data on the veterans with spinal cord injury and disease on the reservation.

The AZPVA would like to do more outreach to the Navajos that have SCI or MS. We would like to have help from the VA office on the reservation. We need to have significant data on the Navajo veterans. There are five agencies within the reservation. The Chapter has learned that the nation has been asking for help for the last 10 years from different Veteran organizations. I was told that they were only lip service: this includes getting transportation for the veterans. APVA will try their best to help the Navajo Nation. We need to reach the veterans from the Nation to take advantage of the annual check ups in either San Diego or Albuquerque. So far, I know of one Native American who is taking advantage of the spinal cord center. If there is any Navajo or Hopis that has a spinal cord injury or disease, they should contact the AZPVA to see what benefits they maybe eligible for from the three VA Hospitals.

President Pleva and Bill Lawson recently visited the three Arizona hospitals. They enjoyed visiting with the hospital personnel and will be assisting the Chapter with additional visits.

THE NAVAJO BASKET STORY

Before a Diné (Navajo) woman marries she prepares cornmeal of three colors: red for health, blue for happiness and white for wealth. During the Diné wedding ceremony a basket like this one is covered with the cornmeal and placed between the couple. The father of the bride draws a line with corn pollen, a symbol of fertility, across the colored cornmeal to indicate the four directions and draws a circle around the edge. The bride and groom eat from the four directions and the center of the basket, and the rest of the cornmeal is shared with the wedding guests. The last guest to eat from the basket receives it as a gift!



The white part of the basket is DAWN.
 The opening of the basket is the DOORWAY for the mind and thought processes.
 The white design in the center is the sacred mountains.
 The red part of the design is SUNSHINE.
 The black part represents DARKNESS.
 The lace around the edge of the basket represents our ROOTS.
 In the Center of the basket is the EMERGENCE.

Happy Valentine's Day!





Welcome 2007

Happy New Year from the Phoenix Spinal Cord Injury Clinic!

Some of you may have already had the opportunity to meet our new clinic nurse, Cynthia

Trinidad. Cynthia is a registered nurse who brings with her, a wealth of experience in the spinal cord injury/rehab field. We are very excited to have her join us in the SCI Clinic where we will put her skills and abilities to work! Please join us in welcoming Cynthia to our clinic.

If you have not been in for sometime, please take the time to call our clinic and schedule your appointment.

In most cases you should be seen at least once every 6 months, although you may be feeling fine, it is necessary to see your provider on a regular basis for preventative care and to review your medications. We also recommend that you have a yearly evaluation at the SCI Center. If you have not already scheduled this, please contact the clinic to get this scheduled. Your healthcare is important to us and we want to ensure that you remain as healthy as possible. The Clinic likes to see everyone after they have been to a SCI Center. This gives Elleen an opportunity to go over your visit and review any changes that may have occurred.

The SCI Primary Care Clinic is open 5 days a week except for weekends and all federal holidays. The SCI Clinic is located within the Copper Clinic. Our hours are from 7:30am to 3:30pm. We do ask that you check in 15 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment, this will allow sufficient time to complete any necessary screenings that need to be done. While we request that you schedule an appointment rather than "dropping in" we recognize that emergencies do occur. There is time allotted during the day for emergent visits to the clinic should the need arise. We do ask that you call ahead as early in the day as possible if you will be coming

in, this way we can give you an approximate time to come in thereby reducing your wait times. Please remember that there is only one phone line in the clinic, so if we are on the phone or providing care to a patient, your call will be switched over to our voice mail. We understand how inconvenient this can be but we will call you back as soon as possible. You are also able to call anytime during the evening or weekends to leave your request for medication renewals or other **NON-EMERGENT** needs.

If you should experience a life threatening emergency **ALWAYS** call 911. If you should have any urgent medical concerns before your appointment, Registered Nurses are available 24 hours a day/7 days a week by calling: *Telephone Care Services – (602) 222-6550 or 1-888-214-7264 outside of Maricopa County, in Arizona.*

We would also like to remind everyone how important it is to have your immunizations up to date. Not only is the pneumonia and flu vaccine important so is the tetanus vaccine. If you have any questions about what immunization you are due for please contact the SCI clinic. You do not need to have an appointment for this you are welcome to stop by anytime during clinic hours.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS TO REMEMBER:

VA Main Number: (602) 277-5551

SCI Clinic: (602) 277-5551 ext 7487

SCI Coordinator: (602) 277-5551 ext 7657

Telephone Care Services: (602) 222-6550 or 1-888-214-7264 outside Maricopa County in Arizona

Medication Refills: (602) 222-6598

Prosthetics: (602) 277-5551 ext 6417

A REMINDER:

The VA pharmacy is no longer refilling refills at the window. They are requesting that you call in your refills to the automated medication refill request system or mail in the request. If you have run out of a particular medicine you can go ahead and call it in and then **BRING** your empty bottle to the pharmacist and you will receive a **PARTIAL** refill. If you cannot take advantage of either refill option, please contact the VA pharmacy department to make special arrangements.

Should you encounter any difficulties the clinic will make every effort to assist you in getting the medication/supplies that you are requesting. Have a wonderful and safe New Year
The Phoenix SCI Primary Care Clinic



Prescott Veterans Hospital

The following answers were submitted by the
Prescott SCI/D Coordinator
and typed by a Chapter volunteer.

1. Name: **David Miller**
2. Office location: Extended Care & Rehab Center (ECRC) next to the hospital room 112
3. Office Hours: 7:30-4pm M-Friday
4. Phone: 928-445-4860 ext. 6263, 800-949-1005 ext. 6263 Fax 928-717-7575
5. none
6. Parking in front of ECRC Building
7. Signage is there stating the building is ECRC, signage for SCI Clinic is in Urgent Care area
8. After hours contact Urgent Care
9. Emergencies contact Urgent Care
10. Social Worker Duties: 1) co-ordinate annual eval. Appointment 2) social issues
3) coordination as needed.
11. Protocols: A) Prosthetic issues- go through SCI Clinic B) Pharmacy issues – go through primary care team C) Annual Evaluations – go through SCI coordinator D) appointments for life issues- go through SCI coordinator E) travel issues – go through SCI coordinator
12. Background Info : none at this time
13. Times of importance: none at this time

For Veterans with ALS

National Registry of Veterans with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is developing a nationwide registry of veterans who have ALS, or Lou Gehrig's Disease. The goal of this registry is to collect important information for studies on the causes of ALS in veterans. In addition, the registry will provide a way for the VA to inform veterans with ALS about clinical trials and other studies for which they may be eligible.

All veterans who have been diagnosed with ALS, or their friends or family members, are encouraged call 1-877-DIAL-ALS (1-877-342-5257) or email ALS@med.va.gov for more information. Additional information about the registry can also be found at the following website: <http://www.va.gov/durham/alsregistry.asp>

Name: Shaun Rudh, LCSW Southern Arizona VA Hospital, Tucson, Arizona

Office in the hospital (physical location)

Southern AZ VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS) 3601 S. 6th Ave Tucson, AZ 85723. Located in building 60 which is the Geriatrics and Rehabilitation Center. SCI Clinic is located on the east wing of the building, room NE 101. I am located on west wing of the building in the Neuro/Geri unit room W117.

Phone number with extension and fax number:

SCI Clinic is (520) 792-1450 ext 6693 (clerk will schedule or triage to appropriate SCI staff person), fax (520) 629-1729 My phone number is (520) 792-1450 ext 5910, fax (520) 629-4783

Office hours:

Clinic hours are 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays

Alternates if applicable:

SCI back-up social worker is Jennifer Quinlan, LCSW Phone number (520) 792-1450 ext 6688

Closest parking area for SCI/SCD patients (be precise):

The closest lot to the clinic is Parking Lot K. There are also several entrances to Building 60 with accessible parking spaces available.

Is there signage:

Yes, there are signs both at Building 60 and throughout the facility.

Who to contact if after hours emergency arises:

If it is an emergent issue, 911 is the most appropriate starting point. Otherwise, the TLC line, (520) 792-1450, can triage to the appropriate level of care.

Who to contact if brought to hospital via emergency vehicle: You will be routed to the SAVAHCS Emergency Department where medical and support staff can assist. If admitted to a medical hospital bed, the SCI team is alerted via computer alert.

List your areas of assistance:

SCI social worker works closely with the SCI team and providers to ensure access to needed VA and community resources. Will assist with discharge planning and referral to appropriate level of care, such as the Geriatrics and Rehabilitation Center or a SCI specialty center. Can connect the veteran with support services such as respite or home health. SCI social worker can assist with medical advance directives. SCI social worker is also available to discuss issues related to care or life stressors.

Protocols you would like followed for:

- a. **Prosthetic issues**—talk with SCI provider for referral or contact prosthetic department at ext 1828.
- b. **Pharmacy issues**--for narcotic renewals please call (520) 838-3644 --for refills on other medications please call (520) 629-1895 or 1 (800) 470-8262 option 3. --for changes or questions about your medications please call (520) 792-1450 option 5 or 1 (800) 470-8262 option 5.
- c. **Annual evaluations**—please contact your SCI provider for appointment
- d. **Setting up appointments for life issues**—talk with your SCI provider, SCI nurse Tina Diproffio, LPN or your SCI social worker.

Travel issues—talk with clinic staff or the VA Travel Department at ext 4626 (for local travel) or (520) 629-4713 (for out of town travel to an SCI Center).

Any background or general information you feel is relevant:

Born and raised in Tucson. BA in Sociology from University of Arizona. Master's degree in Social Work from Arizona State University. Father and Grandfather have both received care at SAVAHCS. Ten years experience working with veterans within the VA.

Times of importance, ie. Flu shots, education available:

Your SCI clinic will assist in coordinating needed preventive care and have educational resources to help guide your decisions.

PVA Advocates

Each of us here at the Phoenix PVA Service Office would like to send our greetings to our members in Arizona. For those of you who don't know, we are located in the Veterans Administration (VA) Regional Office (approximately one mile south west of the Carl T. Hayden, Phoenix VA Medical Center). Our primary purpose is to advocate for our members and insure they are receiving the VA benefits they are entitled to.

Meet your Service Office Staff

Ron Heard, Senior National Service Officer

Ron joined PVA in April of 1977. Ron served four years in the U.S. Air Force. He was born and raised in Oregon and following his military service he was an iron worker until becoming a C-5 quadriplegic in 1970. He is a founding member of the Oregon Chapter of PVA. He has two grown children and a granddaughter living in Portland.

Michael Wilson, National Service Officer Candidate

Michael joined PVA in May of 2005. Michael is a twenty-five year retiree of the U.S. Air Force. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Operations Management from Remington College. He lives in Glendale, Arizona with his wife Guadalupe, and his son Michael Jr.

Marco Rossi, National Service Officer Candidate

Marco joined PVA in October of 2005. Marco served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the 1990-91 Gulf War. He received a Bachelor's degree in Therapeutic Recreation from the University of Northern Iowa in 1999. He and his wife Susan live in Phoenix.

Jackie Berkshire, Secretary II

Jackie joined PVA in May of 2004. Jackie is a native of Maryland and has resided in Arizona for over 20 years. Her son, Jeff will be graduating from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa this May.

Office Location and Other Important Information

Paralyzed Veterans of America
Veterans Administration Regional Office
3333 N. Central Avenue, Suite 1055
Phoenix, AZ 85012
(602)627-3311
(800)795-3582
(602)627-3315 (fax)
Hours: 9:00am-4:30pm

VA Hospital Visits

Our Service Officers make Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) visits regularly. Please keep in mind that the following schedule does change. Please call our office at least one week prior to your desired date to schedule a time. Generally our visits are as follows:

Carl T. Hayden, Phoenix VAMC – each Wednesday

Bob Stump, Prescott VAMC – second Monday of each month

Tucson VAMC – second Friday of each month

Contacting the Service Office

If you are a veteran and have questions related to the VA healthcare or Compensation or Pension you are receiving, or if you are a widow of a veteran and have questions about Dependency and Indemnity Compensation or Widow's Pension, please feel free to give us a call.

Please note that if you call during regular business hours and you get our answering service to please leave us a message. We will get back in touch with you as soon as possible. We are very busy but please remember that serving all of our members is our priority. Ron, Michael, Marco and Jackie all send our thanks to each of you for your service to our country and for your support of our troops who serve today.

Special Social Security Earnings for Military Service

This information was retrieved on January 18, 2007 from Social Security Online at:
<http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm>

Under certain circumstances, special extra earnings for your military service from 1940 through 2001 can be credited to your record for Social Security purposes. These extra earnings may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit.

Special extra earnings are granted for periods of active duty or active duty for training. Special extra earnings are not granted for inactive duty training. Note: Social Security cannot add these extra earnings to your record until you file for Social Security benefits.

How You Get Credit for Special Extra Earnings

The information that follows applies only to active duty military service earnings from 1940 through 2001. Here's how the special extra earnings are credited:

Service In 1978 through 2001

For every \$300 in active duty basic pay, you are credited with an additional \$100 in earnings up to a maximum of \$1,200 a year. If you enlisted after Sept. 7, 1980, and didn't complete at least 24 months of active duty or your full tour, you may not be able to receive the additional earnings. Check with Social Security for details.

Service In 1957 Through 1977

You are credited with \$300 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which you received active duty basic pay.

Service In 1940 Through 1956

If you were in the military during this period, including attendance at a service academy, you did not pay Social Security taxes. However, your Social Security record may be credited with \$160 a month in earnings for military service from Sept. 16, 1940, through Dec. 31, 1956, under the following circumstances:

- You were honorably discharged after 90 or more days of service, or you were released because of a disability or injury received in the line of duty; or
- You are still on active duty; or
- You are applying for survivors benefits and the veteran died while on active duty.

You cannot receive credit for these special extra earnings if you are already receiving a federal benefit based on the same years of service. There is one exception: If you were on active duty after 1956, you can still get the special earnings for 1951 through 1956, even if you're receiving a military retirement based on service during that period.

For more information, and to find copies of Social Security publications, visit the Social Security Administration (SSA) online at www.socialsecurity.gov or call toll-free 1-800-772-1213 (for the deaf or hard of hearing, call SSA's TTY number 1-800-325-0778).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: David J. Uchic
(202) 416-7667 (202) 368-7633 (cell)

PVA Fellowship Supports New Research to Seek a Cure for Paralysis

Washington, DC --Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) and its Spinal Cord Research Foundation (SCRF) will present the 2007 Fritz Krauth Memorial Fellowship to Nicole Welch, PhD, Ottawa Health Research Institute, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

For FY 2007, the PVA Research Foundation will award nearly \$1.5 million for 13 grants in basic sciences, applied clinical and assistive technology related to the needs of Americans with spinal cord injury or diseases. Dr. Welch's award is part of this overall award package, and the latest in the four-year history of the Krauth Fellowship.

Dr. Welch's project is titled, "Schmidt-Lanterman incisure gap junctions and axonal calcium homeostasis." She serves as a post-doctoral fellow at the Ottawa Health Research Institute in Ottawa, Canada as a neuroscience researcher. Previously, she was a post-doctorate fellow at Northwestern University.

Dr. Welch will investigate the acute phase of spinal cord trauma, in an area in which little is known. It is a phenomena of spinal cord injury that when a traumatic insult occurs, there are changes at the cellular and molecular level of the entire central nervous system that actually leads to greater damage than was caused by the initial event. This later damage contributes significantly to the irreversibility of almost all spinal cord injuries. Dr. Welch will seek with PVA funding therapeutic strategies to address this phenomena in an attempt to minimize this type of damage in the earliest minutes and hours of traumatic insult."

Randy L. Pleva, Sr., PVA's national president and chairman of the Research Foundation, said, "The fellowship proposals that we are funding represent the vision of some of the best young researchers. Together, we are trying to unravel the mysteries of spinal cord injury and disease. PVA looks forward to the work to be undertaken by Dr. Welch and the other researchers."

PVA's Research Foundation has funded three additional fellowships:

Charles G. Lo, PhD, University of California at San Diego: "Analyses of the Planer Cell Polarity Pathway in Axon Guidance.

Sharon A. Matheny, PhD, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center: "Molecular Mediators of EphA4-induced Axon Inhibition in the Central Nervous System."

Ariel Tankus, PhD, University of California at Los Angeles: "Brain-Computer Interfaces in the Human Supplementary Motor Area."

Fritz Krauth was a PVA member, donor and Navy veteran who incurred a spinal cord injury as a naval aviator. He participated in the early years of organized wheelchair basketball, and served as captain of the 1964 Olympic gold medal wheelchair basketball team. His success with this sport earned him enshrinement into the National Wheelchair Basketball Hall of Fame. Krauth also enjoyed tennis and fishing. In 1995, PVA conferred its Patriot Award on him.

Before his death in 2002, Krauth provided a gift to PVA to support research initiatives approved by SCRFthe Research Foundation. The Krauth Fellowship is awarded to the top-ratedranked SCRF fellowship applicant each year.

SCRFThe PVA Research Foundation, created in 1975, represents PVA's commitment to support research that alleviates, and ultimately cures spinal cord paralysis. All SCRF grant applications undergo a rigorous review process. Initially, a panel of doctors, researchers and other spinal cord injury professionals rate each project for relevance and scientific merit. Final funding decisions are made by the Research Foundation Board of Trustees, which is composed entirely of paralyzed veterans, to ensure the process considers the needs of PVA members. or Email: GeneralCounsel@pva.org.

CLASSIFIEDS

MEMBERSHIP ALERT

Time is running out

Change in specially adapted Housing
(SAH) Grant Law

- ◆ One-time usage clause eliminated
- ◆ Anyone who originally used the grant before December 16, 2003 may be eligible to use the Grant Again
- ◆ You can use the difference between what you have already received and the current maximum grant of \$50,000.00
- ◆ The Law may Change SOON
- ◆ APPLY NOW
- ◆ CONTACT YOUR PVA SERVICE OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND AN APPLICATION.
- ◆ IN ARIZONA CALL: 602-627-3311
- ◆ OR 1-800-795-3582

Lending Closet

The Arizona Chapter has a prosthetics Lending closet. For a small donation you can acquire a power wheelchair, a chair lift for your car or truck, a manual wheelchair, shower equipment, aluminum walkers, canes, crutches. Do not hesitate to call the Chapter office if you are in need of any type of equipment. We may have just what you need.

602-244-9168

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FARMERS

Gets you back where you belong:

A-S-HDA-054C (9/05)

2005-2006 Calendar of Events

When	What	Where	Who
February 20 2007	APVA Board of Directors Meeting	Veterans Home 3rd St & Indian School	Pat Beran 602-244-9168
March 24 2007	APVA Board of Directors Meeting	Tucson, Arizona	Pat Beran 602-244-9168
April 14th 2007	Over the Line 2nd Annual Tournament	TBD	Gary Hershey 623-209-0311
April 14th 2007	MS Walk on the Wild Side	Phoenix Zoo	Ben Garcia 602-244-9168
April 21st 2007	Barrier Buster Awards Luncheon	Sheraton Crescent Hotel I-17 & Dunlap Ave	Pat Beran 602-244-9168
June 16th 2007	APVA Board of Directors Meeting & BBQ	The VA in Prescott, AZ	Pat Beran 602-244-9168

Any questions, or if you would like to add to the calendar please call the office at
602-244-9168

MEMBERSHIP REPORT from The Arizona Chapter

The Arizona Chapter voting membership stands at **525** as of December 2005.

National and APVA records show our voting membership as:
291- Service Connected 234 - 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



COME JOIN THE FUN IN Durango!

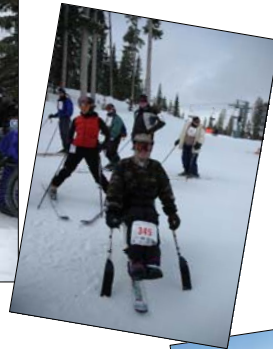


ADAPTIVE SPORTS ASSOCIATION IN DURANGO, COLORADO

Want to learn to ski and/or snowboard? How about an exciting summer afternoon white water rafting down the Animas River? Maybe, a relaxing day of flat water canoeing, sea kayaking and fishing on one of Durango's beautiful lakes are more to your liking.

Since 1983, the Adaptive Sports Association in Durango, CO provides recreational opportunities for adults and children with physical and cognitive disabilities without regard to personal financial limitations. ASA offers private, adaptive ski and snowboard instruction to individuals with disabilities each day of the ski season at Durango Mountain Resort. Lessons are full or half day and include lift tickets, specialized adaptive equipment, and one or two trained instructors per student, as needed. ASA is a long-term ski school member of Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA), and over 30 of our volunteer instructors are nationally certified through PSIA. ASA's success is largely due to the tremendous support of dedicated volunteers. Quality instruction and safety are primary concerns of ASA.

In 1998 ASA broadened its program to include a variety of summer activities. Programs include whitewater rafting, flat water canoeing, sea kayaking, and fishing in a variety of locations. Now we are planning on expanding our summer program again with a new cycling program. We have a fundraiser to help fund our new summer cycling program called The Dave Spence White Rim Tour – Canyonlands, UT - April 3 to 6, 2007. This is a permitted trip only. We would love to have a few Veteran cyclists register. For more details call us.



The original goal of providing adaptive recreational instruction to individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities in an environment that diminishes social

Flat water Canoeing, Sea Kayaking, and fishing



ASA's Veterans Program

Week long skiing scholarships are available to any veteran with a physical or cognitive disability. We recently received funding for veterans with visual impairment disabilities.

What does a scholarship cover?

- Transportation**
- Lodging**
- Meals**
- Lessons**
- Equipment**
- Lots of fun!**

Complete an application for the selection committee – call to obtain an application.

ASA uses sports and recreational lessons as tools to build socialization skills, improve self-image, physical & emotional well-being, and develop confidence. As our participants challenge themselves physically and emotionally they develop mental toughness. They lead a healthy lifestyle and join family and friends in recreational endeavors as active members

For additional information on the programs mentioned above call: (970) 259-0374

John Suardini Named to the Veterans Hall of Fame

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Princeton native John Suardini has been inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame.

Suardini, who now lives in Scottsdale, Ariz., was born in Princeton and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1949. Suardini was wounded in the Korean War, earning the Bronze Star medal for his actions as squad leader while under attack, and discharged in 1951.

Suardini is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; Disabled American Veterans; Paralyzed Veterans of America; Military Order of the Purple Heart; Maricopa County, Ariz.; Sheriff's Posse; and the Lions Club.



January Birthdays

Donald Woodward
Stewart Davis
Fred DeGalan
Kathleen A. Lake
Frank Harmon
William Lambert
Milton Scott
Francis Bessette
Joseph DiMeco
Bernard Hixson
Donald Thomas
James Escobar
Richard Bead Sr.
Keith Borges
John Mattson
Robert Schmidt
Manuel Ballesteros
Harry Dierkes
Dennis Kavanagh
James Avery
Reymundo Chavez
Arnold Gustafson
John Bignall
Margaret Dixon
King Houston
Merlin Hocken
David Carlson
Leroy Welch
Robert Brule

February Birthdays

John Lawrence
Edward Kane
Shelia Sessions
David Schmitz
Donald Sharon
Ed Nick
Hartvig Holmberg III
John Short, Sr
Scott Balko
Marvin Floyd
John Makin
Gayle Renee Hedin
Tom Brooks
Ray Kolarik
Bobby James
Billy Moore
Charles Newbold
Edward Noriega
James Skane
Walton Jones
Herbert Thompson
James Huff
Michael Gaita
David Ferrazzi
Michael Berry
Ernest Buxton
Janene Werner
George Sheehan, Jr
Lester Ackerman

March Birthdays

David Hertzberg
William Capp
Cruz Marquez
William Hartley
Howard Simmons
Jan Many
Michael Henman
Charles Carpenter
Joseph Seley
Ronald Courteau, Jr.
Craig Bash
Ken Walsh
Daniel Rzonca
T.J. Blake
Hal Wochholz
Frank Klonoski
George Paige
Ralph Sealock
George Caldwell
Craig Allseitz
Richard Dill
William Kohn
Judy McCarthy
Gaylon Grodt
John Carter, Jr.
Bruce Laurelez
Kenneth Monroe
Donna Perkins
Williamm Ensinger

Thomas Swettenam
Paul Dixon
Polio Echo Inc.
Bruce Dembroski
Christopher Doody
Frank Pycha III
Marrion Widger
James Danowski
Richard Coy
Heather Craighead
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