

# The Desert Oracle



A Member Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America

March—April 2008 Vol. 11 Issue 3

## April Fools' Day Facts, Behind the Laughs

For the eager prankster, nothing beats April Fools' Day, a light-hearted tradition that's several hundred years old. A lot of people think April fools' Day is just obnoxious, and just wish it would stop, but people who love pranks really love the day and refuse to give up the tradition. They're the ones who keep it alive! However the number of pranks in the home and at the office has decreased in recent years in the U.S. and has been replaced by large institutionalized media hoaxes.

The origins of April Fools' Day are shrouded in mystery. The most popular theory is that France changed its calendar in the 1500s so that the New Year would begin in January to match the Roman calendar instead of the start of spring in late March or early April. However word of the change traveled slowly, and many people in rural areas continued to celebrate the New Year in the spring. These country dwellers became known as "April Fools".

It is also believed instead that April Fools' Day simply grew out of age-old European spring festivals in which pranks and camouflaging one identity are common.

It is said that humor and pranksters can offer society some much-needed perspective. Good humorists are basically secular shamans—they both heckle society on one hand and heal it on the other.



# Arizona Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America

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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 Desert Oracle Newsletter** is in your mailbox again because you need to know what is coming up this spring. It's quicker, shorter and sans fluff; but if you are at all interested in

the Chapter please read what is inside. The election guidelines were fine tuned last year. The rules to become a Chapter Board member are spelled out in a much better format. The new template for the ballots has places for write in candidates. Even if you do not care to run for a board position or volunteer; your vote does really matter. Let's face it, you can't complain if you don't participate.

In a similar process if you want Chapter funding to go to the National Veteran's Wheelchair Games in Spokane this Summer, the rules are also in this newsletter to guide you along. Last year was phenomenal as the fundraising was strong enough to pay for everyone's flights and hotel rooms. However now it seems that there are those who are not contributing to the game preparation efforts and are expecting to get their way paid. The guidelines are inside and will be followed or the Board of Directors will not approve funding. It would be unfair to those who go out fundraising every year to keep funding those who do not contribute.

While the actual "Barrier Bluster" Luncheon was cancelled for this year, there will be awards presented to those worthy individuals that have made our community better. The awardees will be reported on in future newsletters.

National PVA's Mid Winter Board meeting was held in the middle of February and as expected the Chapter grants were cut by \$25,000.00. This means we will

receive \$3571.00 less each month. We do not expect to get an increase for the fiscal year 2010, starting in October, so we will be putting a heavy emphasis on cutting cost and increasing all of our fundraising efforts. If anyone is so inclined we will accept donations and the Arizona Chapter is a registered corporation that qualifies you for the Arizona Charity Tax Credit.

We try to hold picnics and barbecues at different venues each year. We also support different events open to our members such as fishing and trapshooting. However without the member's attendance, input and some time served on a committee it really becomes a non chapter event and most likely not going to continue to be hosted by your Chapter. It would be time and money better spent at the hospitals and looking for new members throughout Arizona.

If you think about it all you are being asked for is your opinion and maybe even your solution or suggestion, so that the Chapter can actually serve your wants and needs within the rules that keep us legitimate.

Until Next Month.....



## **Elections**

### **a. Term :**

The officers and directors of Arizona PVA shall serve a two-year term, or until their successors are elected and qualified.

### **b. Election Frequency:**

Elections shall be held every (2) two years and shall be conducted as follows:

### **c. Nomination:**

- i. The Nominating Committee shall consist of three members in good standing, at least one of which shall be a member of the Board of Directors.
- ii. The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee at least 45 days prior to the April BOD Meeting of the election year with approval of the Board of Directors.
- iii. The Nomination Committee will also announce in the January/ February newsletter that nominations will be accepted as of March 1<sup>st</sup> at the Chapter office, to the attention of the nomination committee.
- iv. The Nominating Committee shall use the current "Robert's Rules of Order" as its guide.
- v. The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of Officers and BOD candidates as prescribed in ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS; and ARTICLE VII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS, respectively.
- vi. All individuals seeking office, whether they are nominated or not, will receive a letter from the committee notifying that individual of their status. This letter should be delivered 10 days before the April BOD Meeting. (See attached # 1)
- vii. Additional nominees may be added by taking nominations from the floor at the April meeting.
- viii. The nominee *must be present* to accept his/her nomination. If the person is not present to accept the nomination, the person making the nomination must present a written and signed acceptance from the nominee as to why they are not present.
- ix. All nomination letters must include the nominee's current address and home number.

### **(d) Elections:**

- i. All individuals running for office may include a personal bio and/or views, of up to 250 words that shall be included in the ballot package. No one may use the Chapter's data base to contact members.
- ii. Balloting shall be done in accordance with "Robert's Rules of Order" as it's guide. The Chapter shall send a ballot (See attached # 2) and two envelopes; one blank envelope to hold the ballot, this will have a line for the member's signature; a second stamped envelope and with the members return address as well as the disinterested third party's address on it. This package will include individual candidate's bio/views.
- iii. Ballots shall be mailed to all members eligible to vote. Ballots must be in the hands of eligible members by the May BOD meeting, allowing 30 days for their return. Ballots received after the day preceding the June Board of Directors meeting shall not be counted.
- iv. Ballots will be returned to a disinterested Third Party, designated by a majority of the Board of Directors at the April BOD Meeting.
- v. The designated Third Party shall deliver the unopened ballots to the APVA President one day prior to the BOD Meeting in June, at which time the ballots shall be counted in accordance with "Robert's Rules of Order".
- vi. The results shall be read at the June BOD Meeting. Winners shall take office July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Installation of elected officers and directors will be at the July BOD and General Meeting. Such meeting is designated the ANNUAL MEETING.

### **Changes:**

Any change in the term of office for officer and director shall become effective *with the next election process*.

## PROCEDURE

### Veterans Wheelchair Games

The Chapter will pay for novices the appropriate number of coaches; four (4) athletes for each coach. Medically approved attendants for novice athletes will have flight and hotel paid for. The attendant hotel cost can be only ½ the room rate.

#### **Being an active member is defined as a person who;**

Is enrolled with an assigned volunteer ID number  
Submits a monthly volunteer time sheet to the Chapter office  
Submits a monthly written report defining accomplishments that mirror the volunteer timesheet  
Donates time and effort to the well being of the APVA “Well Being” is defined as assisting the Chapter carrying out its’ mission to our members. This is the most honorable thing a Volunteer an accomplish. Being a Volunteer-based organization, it is vital to have a strong foundation of Volunteers from which to operate.

First priority will be given for members who are first time applicants (NOVICE). Those who have the most points, in descending order, shall determine financial assistance for athletes who have previously attended. The APVA BOD shall make the final determination.

Points will be accrued from the end of the NVWGs until June 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year. Points earned throughout the year may NOT be carried over into the following year. All volunteer expense/hour vouchers must be turned in to the office by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the following month. It is the Volunteer’s responsibility to keep track of his/her hours and turn in the time sheets.

#### **Point System:**

The following point system will be used for determining financial assistance for attending the national Veterans Wheelchair Games

<u>A one year term on an APVA committee</u>	<u>10 points</u>
<u>Attend APVA membership meeting**</u>	<u>7 points</u>
<u>Participate in Veterans Day Parade and Memorial Day activities</u>	<u>20 points</u>
<u>Assist sports/ recreation clinic</u>	<u>20 points</u>
<u>Volunteer at Chapter office*</u>	<u>2 points</u>
<u>Volunteer at VMAC as an APVA VAVS volunteer*</u>	<u>2 points</u>
<u>Volunteer at functions for APVA (i.e. fairs, sporting events, schools, etc.)*</u>	<u>2 points</u>
<u>Attend State-level legislative Veterans/Disability Hearing</u>	<u>2 points</u>
<u>Attend Advocacy – Barrier Free Meetings</u>	<u>2 points</u>
<u>Sell ads for the “Desert Oracle” (per every \$50)</u>	<u>1 point</u>
<u>Outreach at non-VA Rehabs*</u>	<u>2 points</u>

\*\* BOD Members are not eligible for these points

\* Per hour

Volunteer hours documented during participation in a sporting event will not be counted unless the person is working the event with approval of the Board of Directors. Non-reimbursed volunteer hours will be accepted at a rate of \$1.00 per hour toward meeting the APVA matching fund grant. All members of each team will be responsible for fundraising/volunteer hours.

Please note the following: continue next page

Volunteer sheets with large amounts of hours, i.e. 19 hour days should have a separate letter of explanation if they are going to be accepted.

The same applies for monthly reports with several months of hours combined to get the required hours for potential funding. The Chapter can not log these hours in National PVA's data base; so neither can you.

Hours that are reported but unsubstantiated or approved will not be accepted. An example is fundraising by selling raffle tickets for 50 hours without a single sale.

Complete and timely volunteer reports will be a factor for funding.

In an effort to secure the best rooms that National PVA can provide; we are requesting that all applications be at the Chapter no later than April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

Only those athletes who process their applications through will be considered for funding.

## 2009 Calendar of Events

When	What	Where	Who
March 28th 2009	BOD Meeting And BBQ & Pot Luck	Marana, AZ	Sue Wudy 602-277-4168
April 18th 2009	Over The Line Tournament	TBD	Gary Hershey
April 24-26 2009	Desert Challenge Regional Games	Mesa, AZ	Susan Rossi 480-644-5702
June 20th 2009	BOD Meeting BBQ & Pot Luck "Home made Pie" Contest With Prizes	Prescott VA, Prescott, AZ	Pat 602-244-9168
July 9th 2009	BOD Meeting Phoenix AZPVA Office	8126 N 23rd Ave, Ste J Phoenix, AZ	Pat 602-244-9168
October 2009	BOD Meeting And BBQ & Pot Luck	Marana, AZ	Pat 602-244-9168

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



# Happy Birthday March --- April



Cruz Marquez	David Hertzberg	John Tumidajski	Edward McGrath
William Capp	Howard Simmons	Ronnie Lucier	Jack Mathieson
William Hartley	Jan Many	Donna Decker	Ronald Schomber
Robert Rasgorshak	Charles Carpenter	Charles Hill	Arthur Munoz
Michael Henman	Peter Earnshaw	Noah Brown	Darrell March
Joseph Seley	Ronald Courteau, Jr.	Robert Endsley	Roger Delpier
Craig Bash	Daniel Rzonca	Wayne Ford	Ludwig Kaftan
Fredrick Ollive	Joey Hamilton	John Rourke	Manuel Jaramillo Jr.
T.J. Blake	Rania Jones	William Christensen	Jessie Clark
Hal Wochholz	Darrel Lede	Thomas Beaumont	Bernard Bjurstrom
Frank Klonoski	George Paige	Gene Ackerman	Jean Dougherty
George Caldwell	William Kohn	William Lind, Jr	Lot Christensen
Craig Allseitz	Richard Dill	James DeJong	Teresa Price
Gaylon Grodt	John Carter, Jr.	Louise Thornton	Teresa Fiorie
Bruce Laurelez	Donna Perkins	Dennis Sutterfield	Kevin Waisner
Thomas Swettenam	Paul Dixon	Tony Gonzalez	Charles Petty
Marc Owens	Christopher Doody	Todd Borgstadt	Tony Alagna
Bruce Dembroski	Frank Pycha III	Steve Compson	
Steven Cedo	James Danowski		
Terrie Marquart	Marrion Widger		
Heather Craighead	Alfreda Stone Taylor		
Richard Coy	Daniel McCarthy		
William Ensinger	Luther Spraggins		



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT from The Arizona Chapter

The Arizona Chapter voting membership stands at **540** as of February 2009.

National and APVA records show our voting membership as:

**301- Service Connected 239 - 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)

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