

# The Desert Oracle



A Member Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America

March-April 2006 Vol. 8 Issue #3

## CELEBRATE WITH YOUR ARIZONA CHAPTER

The Arizona Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Cordially Invites You and a Guest to Attend our

### 29th Annual Dick Sloviaczek Barrier Buster Awards Luncheon And PVA Awareness Week

**Sheraton Crescent Hotel, "The Phoenix Ballroom"**  
2620 West Dunlap, Phoenix, AZ.....*Saturday, April 15, 2006*  
**11:30 A.M.-12:30** Reception (No-Host Cocktails)  
**12:30** Lunch/Event

*Please honor us and yourself by attending this event.  
This Year's presentation boasts of excitement and entertainment.,  
door prizes, benefit drawings, silent auctions with  
proceeds to benefit the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.  
Allow yourself to set aside this time to honor those individuals who have made  
our lives and others a little bit easier and more enjoyable.  
You **must** RSVP the Chapter Office with your luncheon choice by April 12, 2006.*



Dick Sloviaczek

.....See you there

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## IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Board of Directors.....pg. 2
- ◆ A Letter From the President.....pg. 3
- ◆ Government Relations Desk.....pg. 4
- ◆ MS Corner .....pg. 5
- ◆ The Tucson Connection.....pg. 6
- ◆ Why Go to a SCI Clinic.....pg. 7
- ◆ Home Modification Program .....pg. 9
- ◆ Pros & Cons of Voting by Mail.....pp. 10-11
- ◆ Scholarship Money Available.....pg. 14
- ◆ Membership Report.....pg. 15
- ◆ Calendar.....pg. 17
- ◆ Birthdays.....Back Page

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.



In recent months the Chapter has begun to develop better relationships with the surrounding Chapters.

President Kovach has been a recent visitor to APVA board meetings since November 2005. Cal-Diego's initiative has given our Chapter a different perspective and hopefully a long term partnership with a well grounded successful PVA Chapter.

We will be assisting Cal-Diego with volunteer driver support this summer at the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual PVA Convention in San Diego. It is always a huge production to host a National Board meeting and our neighbors to the West have gone to great lengths to make this a spectacular event. We wish them the best of luck and will render our best efforts on their behalf. While the Chapter will not be funding additional individuals, all PVA members may attend summer Convention.

This month there will be a focus visit to all three major Veteran hospitals in Arizona. Acute care is an area of concern as most of us do not realize that waiting here in Arizona for a bed in LaJolla is not the way the system should work. If you have a serious issue, say a stage two break down or worse, the staff at LaJolla should be recommending your treatment and finding you a bed if this is deemed medically necessary. If there is not a free bed in LaJolla, then the SCI Center is responsible to find you space at another facility. Now if the veteran refuses care, then the option for an immediate bed is forfeited. Do not let your fear of being grounded in sunny Southern California, keep you trapped here in your bedroom with make shift care for six months. It only makes sense to go get it over with. If you feel that you have or are being kept on hold for care due to the lack of space

then call our NSO Office, 602-627-3311 or the Chapter office at 602-244-9168. In either case, please provide your name, last four and specifics on your problem or we can not help you. The VA is a professional, ethical, medical organization. It is irrational to believe a complaint will get you poor care.

Your raffle tickets have been sent and hopefully you can drop off the stubs at the Barrier Buster's Award Luncheon on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The staff has worked especially hard this year to make our annual banquet better than ever. If for some reason you can not attend, please mail your tickets stubs to the chapter office as soon as possible. Tickets stubs received after the 14<sup>th</sup> can not be submitted. Also there will be various silent action items which you can bid on. Please call Pat at the office for details.

April 9<sup>TH</sup> thru the 16<sup>TH</sup> is PVA Awareness week. Please help us spread the word. If nothing else, help someone else register to vote.

Summer is coming, be safe and God Bless-

.....Peter R Quinn

**Remember to RSVP the Barrier Buster  
As soon as possible to reserve you place!!**

By Michael Roberts MS



On March 5 through March 10 of this year various Chapter's Government R elations Directors, Executive Directors, National Service Directors, and Presidents converged in

Washington, DC for PVA's annual Advocacy/Legislative Seminar and testimony. The following issues were at hand: President Bush's proposed 2007 VA Healthcare Budget, Mandatory Funding for the VA, Protection of Specialized Services, Transportation Equity Act (TEA-LU), Lifespan Respite Act, Social Security Reforms and People with Disabilities.

On March 6 the keynote speaker was the newly appointed Secretary of the VA, James Nicholson. Secretary Nicholson is definitely someone who truly believes and supports the current administration. He stated that the administration's 2007 VA healthcare budget reflects a commitment to veterans and their healthcare through its substantial increase from last year's budget. He also supported the administration's decision to raise the co-pay from \$7 to \$15 and require Priority Groups 7 & 8 veterans to pay an annual user fee of \$250 to \$500.

On March 7 the keynote speaker was the Honorable Steve Buyer, Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. On face value, Representative Buyer presented a caring compassion veteran. He strongly supports co-pays and annual user fees. Individuals in Priority Groups 7 & 8 should not be viewed the same as the other priority groups because he feels they have the ability to pay for co-pays an annual user fees whereas the other groups can not. He is a man of conviction, albeit, his

convictions appear to be somewhat skewed and unrealistic. Although he made a decision for the House Veterans Affairs Committee not to participate in the historic joint testimony of the various Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs), his argument may have some validity. He has decided to invite VSOs to review the past fiscal year and discuss legislative priorities for the year ahead. He feels that this "look back, look ahead" approach will be constructive, as the Administration is developing its budget proposal for the next fiscal year. The following years should test out this argument. But in the meantime, VSOs hopefully we'll be able to maintain access to these elected officials.

On March 8 and 9 over 70 Chapter representatives took to Capitol Hill to advocate for veterans; disabled and able bodied alike. Congressmen Renzi, Pastor, and Grijalva categorically stated that they supported PVA and appeared to be well aware of the proposed administration's budget and did not agree with numerous points throughout. Most assuredly, co-pays and user fees need to be done away with, research and prosthetics both need an increase, and they were not going to settle for cuts in long-term care. Congressmen Hayworth, Kolbe, Franks, Flake, and Shadegg maintained a dialogue, but most appeared to be supportive of the administration's budget. However, there appeared to be some hesitance in the area of co-pays and user fees. As in the past, Senator Kyl's legislative staff person, Noah Silverman, appeared to present Senator Kyl's position in line with the administration. And, as in the past, Senator McCain's office took PVA's information and appeared disinterested and uncommitted.

Based on these visits, Senator Kyl's re-election Campaign, and on Congressman Kolbe's decision not to run for reelection, the Chapter's efforts need to be focused on supporting Congressmen Renzi, Pastor, and Grijalva well, at the same time, shooting hard on a very strong campaign emphasizing to Senator Kyl that he needs to listen to Arizona veterans and persuading Kolbe's successor of the same.



Is everyone's springtime as pleasant to One and all? Your Vice President finds the aroma from the orange blossoms and lilacs to his liking, however not to the allergies.

Nonetheless, this is the season for events to bloom and come anew. Events like Junior/Senior Proms, High School and even College Graduations.

Baseball's Spring Training is also beginning and this writer has found that the handicap accessibility to many of these sports proceedings to be quite adequate. One often has the ability to move quite freely throughout the grounds at the events, although it is mainly on grass-covered surfaces. This includes the amenities at Peoria Sports Complex, Tucson's Electric Park and Phoenix's Muni (Municipal) Stadium, although there are many other locations.

One occasion that has nothing to do with baseball is the annual Walk on the Wild Side. This event is to raise money and awareness of Multiple Sclerosis. Walkers go in and around the Phoenix Zoo, on through the Desert Botanical Gardens, then back to Muni to recoup with a picnic. The event begins at 8am on April 8<sup>th</sup> 2006.

The event is essentially put on by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS). Bandee Baker is this year's event coordinator and is predicting 3000-3500 walkers. She also informed the APVA (Arizona Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America) Vice President that AIG Insurance and

Barrow's Neurological Institute (BNI) are the two (2) major sponsors, along with APVA providing water for the walkers. If anyone wishes to assist with the walk or get involved, you can contact the MS society at 480 968-2488, register on-line at [www.nationalmssociety.org/aza](http://www.nationalmssociety.org/aza), or call 1 800 FIGHT-MS.

There have been representatives on site with various mobility aides (e.g. canes, walkers, scooters), therapeutic massages from various massage schools providing hand rubs as kneaded. The funds raised at last year's walk totaled \$401,000.00. This makes the \$1,300.00 we personally raised seem miniscule, but we know it was for a good cause. This writer and his family will participate once again, and our aim is \$1,500.00-\$2,000.00.

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is a chronic disease of the central nervous system, affecting the brain/spinal cord. It strikes adults in the prime of life and changes lives forever. We can use your help in fighting the devastating effects of this disease by calling and getting involved, or by contacting the APVA office at 602 244-9168 for more information.

This is all for now.

Until next time, Stay cool, Stay free, and God Bless.

Sincerely,  
Benjamin Garcia  
Vice President, Arizona PVA



**It's** a new year and we are half way through March already. The days seem to blow by in a hurry. I'm writing from everyone's favorite city of Tucson.

I just want to touch base with everyone on what's happening in Tucson and at the V.A. Those of you in the know, already know this, but there have been a few changes at the V.A. and the clinic area.

First of all we have a new check in area, that has a lot more room to maneuver your chair. The other is the clinic nurses. There is Tina who has been in the clinic for a while and Lori, who has not been here as long. These ladies are great, and are here to assist Karen as much as possible. So when you call in with a need or a problem, don't be afraid to let them know. If they can't help you, they will surely pass a message onto Karen in a timely manner.

Speaking of Karen, she has been doing a great job for us for over ten years , running the SCI Clinic. The things she does for us makes our lives so much easier, that I think at times, we might take her for granted. So the next time your in for an appointment, or just around the V.A., stop by the clinic and tell her thank you for everything she has done for us.

There also has been some construction that just finished up not too long ago. The new L.S.U. unit just recently opened up about a month or so back. If you ever had to use the old facility, it



was pretty much a nightmare to go in there. To use the new one is still on no one's wish list, but the new one is so much nicer and more state of the art. It will make you're a stay little easier.

For those of you who did not know we have a new NSO that will travel down to Tucson at least once a month. His name is Michael Wilson, and you can reach him at 1-800-795-3582. I have met and talked with him on several occasions. His a very nice and enthusiastic young man, and is looking forward to helping our Chapter and it's members for a long time. He is in the final stages of his training so if you call him with a problem that he might not know the answer to right away, he will do his best to research it and get back to you with an answer or point you in the right direction.

Well that's all from everyone's favorite city for now.

Until next month.....

*John Lawrence*



# Why Go to a Spinal Cord Injury Center?

The VA Healthcare system has a network to treat veterans with spinal cord injuries. This network consists of twenty-three inpatient facilities and numerous SCI clinics and primary care teams that provide outpatient services to meet the unique needs of veterans with spinal cord injury/disease (SCI/D). The twenty-three inpatient facilities are available to serve all SCI/D veterans. Many SCI/D veterans receive outpatient care at SCI clinics or at hospitals with designated primary care teams. These outpatient treatment areas are able to provide care for minor acute illnesses, but may not be equipped to provide treatment for serious SCI healthcare concerns that would require inpatient treatment or regular annual physicals. In all serious health concerns with an SCI/D patient, a consultation should be made with the SCI Center that has oversight of the clinic providing treatment. During consultation, if a determination for inpatient treatment is needed, then a referral to the SCI Center is set up.

## Why go to an SCI Center?

Each SCI Center is staffed with trained nurses, therapists, counselors, and physicians that specialize in treating the whole SCI/D patient. The Chief physician of the unit is board certified in SCI Medicine.

The nursing staff receives special training and education to attend to the unique needs of an SCI patient and have a clear understanding of proper bowel and bladder care procedures, wound care, transfer techniques, and the medications that are used to treat SCI patients. The entire SCI Center staff is well versed on the functional levels of SCI and is very sensitive to what a patient can do.

Centers have a therapy program staffed with physical, occupational, and recreational therapists who will help SCI/D patients reach their maximum functional capabilities. They also provide patient education on specific exercise to prevent reduced range of motion and injury. During a visit they may focus their attention on a specific body part to improve function or reduce pain. The Therapy staff is also informed on all the new technologies that are available such as new wheelchair designs, lift equipment, environmental control units, and a wide range of other equipment that is used to overcome the limits of spinal cord injury.

The psychologists on a spinal cord injury unit have experience with adjustment of SCI/D. They understand spinal cord injury has a life long effect and can help with social situations, family counseling, substance abuse concerns, and anything else you can think of. Having a discussion with a counselor is always a healthy idea.

The Spinal Cord Injury Centers may also be equipped with unique devices such as ceiling lifts, specially designed bathing chairs, and accessible exercise machines. The facility is designed with access in mind with large patient rooms, private baths, accessible open space, and recreation rooms.

The staff and design of a Spinal Cord Injury Center work in unison to provide the highest quality patient care in the VA healthcare system. The SCI Centers are well appointed to handle any healthcare concern. Every SCI/D patient can benefit from a visit to a center. If you or someone you know is interested in receiving care at one of these facilities please talk to your physician or call the PVA Healthcare Hotline (800) 872-7713.



Fun in the pines of Payson

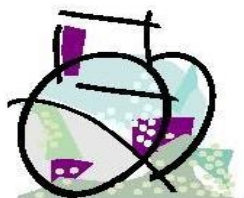
# Don't Miss The \*First Annual\* Spinal Cord Injury Retreat!

**What:** 3 nights and 2 days of fun-filled activities. A great retreat in the beautiful mountains of AZ. Meet new friends, enjoy the games and activities, and just get away for a while.

**When:** May 18—21, 2006

**Where:** Whispering Hope Ranch, near Payson, AZ

**Cost:** \$75 Includes: accessible rooms & showers, meals, entertainment, recreation and transportation!



Arizona Spinal Cord  
Injury Association

For more info call the Arizona Spinal  
Cord Injury Association 602-239-5929



whisperinghoperanch.  
FOUNDATION

# HEARD MUSEUM

Native Cultures & Art

**The Arizona Chapter is honored to hold the Board of Director's July Meeting at the Heard Museum.**

All Members and associates are invited to attend this meeting. Refreshments will be served and a tour of the museum is promised after the meeting. The date is Tuesday, July 18, 2006 at 10:30am. The address is 2301 N Central Ave, in Phoenix. This is your chance to see your Board of Directors in action and marvel at the wonders of the Heard Museum. You must RSVP at the Chapter office by Friday July 14, to reserve place for this exciting event. 602-244-9168

## **“Serving those who Serve”- OIF/OEF Home Modification Program**

Rebuilding Together, a volunteer-based home rehabilitation organization, recently announced a new program targeted at repairing and modifying homes across the country of severely injured military personnel returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, Serving those who Serve. They will soon be renovating the home of a PVA member in Virginia.

The program targets four areas of injury: loss of vision, loss of hearing, mobility impairments such as amputation and paralysis, and traumatic brain injury. The eligibility requirements for the program are proof of service in either Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom and a severe service-related disability. They or a family member must own the home where the work will be performed.

They have contacted PVA in search of more homes to modify for our OIF/OEF members, and we're passing the information down to you. If you know of any OIF/OEF candidates for the program please let us know, and we can expedite the process- they are a great organization and this seems like such a wonderful opportunity for our newer members.

To learn more or fill out an application go to their website, [www.servingthosewhoserve.com](http://www.servingthosewhoserve.com). To speak to Rebuilding Together directly, call 202-483-9083.

If you have any questions, please contact Sheila Skipper at [SheilaS@pva.org](mailto:SheilaS@pva.org), or Louis Irvin with Veterans Benefits at [LouisI@pva.org](mailto:LouisI@pva.org).

# Advantages of Voting-by-Mail

(obtained from [www.vbmaz.com](http://www.vbmaz.com) Rick Murphy's Vote by Mail Initiative in Arizona)

Mail balloting has several advantages over traditional polling. First, it is cost effective. Second, it has resulted in increased participation among voters. Third, it is easier for election officials to conduct. Fourth, it allows for a more accurate picture of eligible voters, by keeping voting lists up-to-date. Fifth, it gives voters a longer opportunity to study the ballot and find answers to their questions.

For example, between 1995 and 1997 in Oregon, counties saved over \$1 million on three, vote-by-mail special elections. If, during that same period, primary and general elections had been conducted by mail, Oregon counties could have saved an additional \$3 million.

Every statistic shows that voting by mail is more convenient for voters and that it increases turnout. For example, by examining the turnout before and after seven Washington State counties conducted mail balloting in 1994, we get a good picture. In the 1990 state primary in these counties, they had a combined average turnout of 38 percent. After those counties went to an all mail-in ballot, the combined average turnout for the same counties was 53 percent. That is an increase of 15 percent, or, nearly 40 percent more people came to the polls. One county saw its turnout increase to 68 percent, another county's turnout – in a primary – increased to nearly 72 percent. Other jurisdictions have experienced similar jumps in voter anticipation. In the 1996 Oregon Republican and Democratic Presidential Primaries, Oregon led the nation in its participation rate. Over 53.7 percent of Oregon voters mailed their ballots for the primaries. New Hampshire ranked second for state participation at 45 percent.

Conducting elections by mail is much easier on the election administrators. Mail-in elections make particular sense as a place to start and to experiment in local elections, primaries, and local ballot questions. Mail balloting in such local elections has also resulted in increased

turnout. The Federal Election Commission book Innovations in Election Administration 11: All-Mail-Ballot Elections discusses the advantages of mail balloting for election administrators well:

No poll workers includes: no recruitment; no notices to be sent; no classes to conduct; no distribution and retrieval of election day supplies; no last-minute cancellations from workers who had agreed to serve; no paychecks to cut and mail; no W-2's to send; no pre-dawn election-day hours to line up replacement workers. No polling places includes no polling place leases, telephones, utilities; no searching for or preparation of accessible locations; no frantic phone calls about locked doors; no preparation, set-up, tear-down, or emergency repairs of voting machines or devices; no confusion about where people must go to vote.

In addition, with more people voting absentee, using mail balloting exclusively avoids election administrators from essentially conducting two elections – an absentee election and a polling place election. There is more room for corruption when election administration officials have to basically conduct two parallel systems.

Voter lists are much easier to accurately maintain with mail balloting. This is because ballots that are returned to election officials as undeliverable highlight registrations that must be checked. This helps election officials purge their registration rolls of ineligible voters.

A more informed voting public is cited as another advantage of mail-in balloting. If an individual has two weeks between when he or she receives a ballot and when it must be returned, this allows a better opportunity for voters to study the issues, to clarify any points of confusion, and get questions answered.

# Bemoaning Vote-at home:

by Emil Franzi, [Northwest Explorer](#), Jan.26, 2006

This February, Oro Valley will again hold a mail-in election. The Tucson council just decided to pursue the same objective. There will also be a proposal on the November ballot to convert Arizona to all-mail elections, totally eliminating polling places.

The arguments used promoting it are allacious: it doesn't save money. Dollars not spent on polling places and temp personnel are used up in hiring other folks for longer duty checking mailed ballots, and postage is necessary both ways to avoid charges of a de facto poll tax. It doesn't really increase turn-out (and why is that so wonderful anyway?). It just has the folks who vote on election day voting otherwise. It doesn't reduce the chances for voter fraud, it increases it. Polling place fraud is the easiest kind to detect. Counting room fraud is the hardest. I find cognitive dissonance resonating from those who keep telling me about all the ways computers can be rigged in vote counting and then wish to put the whole system out of sight via at-home voting. It's a little hard to double the number of votes at a polling place if the candidates and the parties are there looking. It's a lot easier in the back room.

The five democrats, one independent and RINO Republican who support converting Tucson's system share another characteristic. They all opposed the successful ballot measure requiring ID be shown at polling places. By eliminating polling places entirely they just usurped that issue. While the same measure made it harder to register fraudulently, eliminating the polling place will mean that those successful in registering fraudulent voters will have little trouble voting them as long as the handwriting on the ballot is basically similar.

The other force driving at home voting is the election bureaucracy itself, the county

recorders and city clerks. It makes life a whole lot easier for them. No more finding polling places, no more training classes for poll workers, no more election day hassles and voter challenges, no more tacky party types looking over your shoulder. More budget justification for regular employees. And just in case there happens to be one or two of them somewhere who are so inclined, a much greater opportunity to rig the results.

There are many other thing wrong with pandering to the couch potato vote. The system unquestionably raises the cost of political campaigns. It also denies voters the opportunity to change their minds based on new information if they in fact vote too early. This is touted as a way to eliminate the effect of last minute smears. It also eliminates last minute facts. Which is why many voters hold their ballots to the last minute. Some get back too late and aren't counted, reducing the turnout the system is supposed to increase.

At home voting also destroys the principle of the secret ballot. The curtains in the polling place are there for a reason, to prevent union bosses, employers, patriarchs and matriarchs from intimidating a voter. How much intimidation are we inviting by blanket mailing ballots to everyone? To mandate the system everywhere is a truly bad idea.

Mr. Franzi's web site is: [www.insidetrackaz.com](http://www.insidetrackaz.com)

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## **WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE HOME**

THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL THREE BEDROOM THREE BATHROOM HOME IN NORTH EAST PHOENIX. THE CURRENT OWNER BUILT THIS HOME FOR HIS WIFE WHO WAS CONFINED TO A WHEELCHAIR. THE HOME IS SET UP TO HAVE TWO MASTER SUITES (ONE IS CURRENTLY BEING USED FOR AN ENTERTAINMENT ROOM) BOTH MASTERS HAVE THEIR OWN BATHROOM WITH THE MAIN MASTER HAVING A ROLL IN SHOWER AND PLENTY OF SPACE FOR MANUVERING. THE KITCHEN HAS ROLL UNDER CABINETS, EASY TO REACH UPPER CABINETS, AND A ROLL UNDER STOVE TOP WITH DUAL LOWERED OVENS, MAKING THIS HOME EASY FOR THE INDEPENDENT WHEELCHAIR USER. OUTSIDE YOU WILL FIND A LARGE COVERED PATIO AND A DEEP ENDED POOL WITH A WHEELCHAIR RAMP TAKING YOU TO RELAXATION. THE BACKYARD ALSO HAS ORANGE, LEMON AND GRAPEFRUIT TREES. THE GARAGE IS OVERSIZED AND WILL FIT TWO CARS. LOOKING OUT THE DINING WINDOW YOU WILL SEE THE BEAUTIFUL PIESTAWA PEAK MOUNTAIN AND THE BIKE PATH OUT YOUR FRONT DOOR WILL TAKE YOU ON THE DREAMY DRAW. THERE IS ALSO A PARK DIRECTLY ACROSS THE STREET WITH A WIDE PAVED TRAIL AND CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA. THERE ARE MANY FEATURES WITH THIS HOME NOT LISTED SO PLEASE CALL AND TAKE A LOOK. YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.



I HAVE BEEN A PARALYZED VETERAN IN A WHEELCHAIR FOR 22 PLUS YEARS SELLING REAL ESTATE IN ARIZONA FOR ALMOST TEN YEARS. ALTHOUGH I WORK WITH ALL SELLERS AND BUYERS, I TRY TO FIND WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE HOMES FOR THE LARGE CUSTOMER BASE I HAVE THAT ARE CONFINED TO CHAIRS. IF YOU NEED HELP IN FINDING OR SELLING YOUR HOME OR WOULD LIKE TO SEE OTHER HOMES I HAVE, PLEASE CALL ME.

**DENNIS OLP**  
**DAN SCHWARTZ REALTY**  
**602-882-7355**

## **The 26th National Wheelchair Veterans Games**

**This years games are to be held in Anchorage, Alaska, July, 3-8, 2006.**

**Hosted by the Northwest Chapter PVA  
and the Alaska VA Healthcare System.**

Each year the Arizona Chapter PVA sponsors novices to this event. The criteria of a sponsored novice is:

1. Only a novice athlete (a veteran who has never participated in ANY organized wheel chair sporting event) is eligible to apply.
2. The Veteran must display enthusiasm that is contagious to others around him/her.
3. The veteran must have a proven record of positive therapeutic performance not only in sports but also in the entire rehabilitative process.
4. There must be a financial need—that without this sponsorship—the veteran would not be able to attend the Games.

This year your Arizona Chapter PVA is asking all of our readers for their financial support in helping these novice men and women from Arizona meet this goal and be able to participate at the Games in Anchorage, Alaska.

Your donation, large or small will be most greatly appreciated. 100% of your donation will be designated to the novices for their travel, room accommodations and food at the Games. Please find it in your heart to give to another, a fellow veteran who uses a wheelchair, to make a dream come true. Please make you check payable to the AZPVA, memo: Vet Games. Any questions, please call the AZPVA office at 602-244-9168.

Your donation is tax deductible and you will receive a letter of acknowledgement..

.....Thank you.

See inside back page

## **Scholarship Money Available for the 2005-2006 Academic Year**

PVA established an Educational Scholarship Program to assist PVA members and their immediate family members in gaining a post-secondary education from accredited colleges and universities across America. For the upcoming 2006-2007 academic year, PVA will be offering both full-time (\$1,000) and part-time scholarships (\$500).

This program is open to PVA members, their spouses and unmarried children, under 24 years of age. Applicants must be United States citizens and accepted or enrolled in a degree program.

Applications must be received at the PVA National Office no later than June 15, 2006. To obtain the appropriate instructions and application forms, please contact either your local PVA chapter or Patricia Hoover at 800-424-8200 ext. 619, or email her at [TrishH@pva.org](mailto:TrishH@pva.org).

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT from The Arizona Chapter

The Arizona Chapter voting membership stands at 573 as of December 2005.

National and APVA records show our voting membership as:  
315- Service Connected      255 - 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)

## Public Warned about Identity Theft E-mail Scam

Jo Anne Barnhart, Commissioner of Social Security, and Patrick O'Carroll, Jr., Inspector General of Social Security, issued a warning today about a new email scam that has surfaced recently.

The Agency has received several reports of an email message being circulated addressed to "*Dear Social Security Number And Card owner*" and purporting to be from the Social Security Administration. The message informs the reader "*that someone illegally is using your Social Security number and assuming your identity*" and directs the reader to a website designed to look like Social Security's Internet website.

"I am outraged that someone would target an unsuspecting public in this manner," said Commissioner Barnhart. "I have asked the Inspector General to use all the resources at his command to find and prosecute whoever is perpetrating this fraud."

Once directed to the phony website, the individual is asked to confirm their identity with "*Social Security and bank information*." Specific information about the individual's credit card number, expiration date and PIN number is then requested. "Whether on our online website or by phone, Social Security will never ask you for your credit card information or your PIN number," Commissioner Barnhart said.

Inspector General O'Carroll recommends people always take precautions when giving out personal information. "You should never provide your Social Security number or other personal information over the Internet or by telephone unless you are extremely confident of the source to whom you are providing the information," O'Carroll said.

To report receipt of this email message or other suspicious activity to Social Security's Office of Inspector General, please call the OIG Hotline at 1-800-269-0271. (If you are deaf or hard of hearing, call the OIG TTY number at 1-866-501-2101). A Public Fraud Reporting form is also available online at OIG's website [www.socialsecurity.gov/oig](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/oig).

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1998 Ford Windstar. 70,600 miles. Red with tan cloth interior. VMI Northstar in-floor ramp. **\$17,500**



1996 Dodge Grand Caravan. 61,000 miles. VMI Summit fold-out ramp. **\$13,500**



2002 Dodge Grand Caravan SE Sport. 53,000 miles. Linen Gold with Khaki cloth interior. VMI Summit fold-out ramp. **\$27,995**



2005 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT. 22,300 miles. Grey cloth interior. VMI Northstar in-floor ramp. **\$38,500**



2005 White Chrysler Town & Country Touring. 14,000 miles. Leather interior with sun roof. VMI Northstar in-floor ramp. **\$45,350**



2005 Red Dodge Grand Caravan SXT. 21,000 miles. Grey cloth interior. VMI Northstar in-floor ramp. **\$42,000**

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# 2005-2006 Calendar of Events

<b>When</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Who</b>
<b>April 1 2006</b>	<b>The Annual Spring Picnic &amp; BBQ In Tucson, AZ</b>	<b>Jesse Owens Park</b>	<b>Pat Stiles 602-244-9168</b>
<b>April 15 2006</b>	<b>The Barrier Buster Award Luncheon &amp; PVA Awareness Week</b>	<b>Sheraton Crescent I-17 &amp; Dunlap Phoenix, AZ</b>	<b>Pat Stiles 602-244-9168</b>
<b>April 18 2006</b>	<b>APVA Board of Directors Meeting</b>	<b>Veterans Home 3rd St. &amp; Indian School Rd</b>	<b>Pat Stiles 602-244-9168</b>
<b>May 16 2006</b>	<b>APVA Board of Directors Meeting</b>	<b>Veterans Home 3rd St. &amp; Indian School Rd</b>	<b>Pat Stiles 602-244-9168</b>
<b>May 18-21 2006</b>	<b>AZ Spinal Cord Injury Association Retreat</b>	<b>Whispering Hope Ranch, Payson AZ</b>	<b>Amy Rocker 602-239-5929</b>
<b>June 2006</b>	<b>The Annual Spring Picnic &amp; BOD in Prescott, AZ</b>	<b>VA Hospital Ramada</b>	<b>Pat Stiles 602-244-9168</b>
<b>July 3-8 2006</b>	<b>26th National Wheelchair Games</b>	<b>Anchorage, Alaska</b>	<b>Pat Stiles 602-244-9168</b>
<b>July 18 2006</b>	<b>Annual Board of Directors Meeting</b>	<b>Heard Museum 2301 N Central Ave Phoenix, AZ</b>	<b>Pat Stiles 602-244-9168</b>
<b>September 19 2006</b>	<b>APVA Board of Directors Meeting</b>	<b>Veterans Home 3rd St. &amp; Indian School Rd</b>	<b>Pat Stiles 602-244-9168</b>

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

## FOR SALE:

1997 Chevy 1500 Series Van with Ricon Uni-lite Lift, 6-way seat, and hand controls; 130 K miles. \$7,000 OBO.  
Call 602-439-5074.

## FOR SALE:

Storm TDX3 Power Wheelchair, including battery charger, with 17-18 inch seat, \$2,000 OBO.  
Call 602-439-5074.

# Happy Birthday March

Cruz Marquez	David Hertzberg
William Capp	William Hartley
Howard Simmons	Michael Henman
Charles Carpenter	Joseph Seley
Ronald Courteau, Jr.	Craig Bash
Ken Walsh	Hal Wochholz
Frank Klonoski	George Paige
Ralph Sealock	George Caldwell
William Kohn	Richard Dill
John Carter, Jr.	Gaylon Grodt
Judy McCarthy	Kenneth Monroe
Donna Perkins	Bruce Laurelez
Thomas Swettenam	Paul Dixon
Robert Deyerberg	Bruce Dembroski
Christopher Doody	Frank Pycha III
James Danowski	Richard Coy
Alfreda Stone	Luther Spraggins
Daniel McCarthy	William Ensinger

## Sun Artisans



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Sun Artisan's Odor Neutralizer comes in both a ready-to-use spray bottle or a concentrate. Make your wheelchair, cushion, car, bathroom, in fact, your whole house or office smell better with this easy-to-use, better than ever, odor-eliminating product formulated especially for the spinal cord injured community. This product is not a perfume or mask, but helps eliminate odors at the source.

And best of all, proceeds from the sale of these products go to help support programs for the spinal cord injured. Together we can help make the world a fresher place.

16-ounce Spray Pump \$11.99  
4-ounce Concentrate \$10.99



To order these products or for more information about being a distributor, call:

Arizona Spinal Cord Injury Association  
901 East Willetta, Suite 2306  
Phoenix, AZ 85006

Contact Person: Amy Rocker  
(602) 239-5929 Voice ♦ (602) 239-6268 Fax  
sales@sunartisans.com



## SPINAL INJURY VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

The Translational Pain Research Group at the Brigham and Woman's Hospital is conducting clinical trials that evaluate various medications to help relieve chronic neuropathic pain as a result of a Spinal Cord Injury. You may be eligible for this research study if you:

Are 18-70 years old?

Have been diagnosed with a Spinal Cord Injury?

Have had chronic neuropathic or neuropathies pain for at least 3 months?

For more information call 1-617-525—7246 or email us at [paintrials@partners.org](mailto:paintrials@partners.org)  
Please do not hesitate to contact our office with any questions.

# Chasing the Midnight Sun

## 26th National Veterans Wheelchair Games

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA ❄️ JULY 3-8, 2006

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games are the largest annual wheelchair sporting event in the United States. More than 600 athletes and coaches from the United States, Puerto Rico, and Great Britain are expected to participate. The event is an excellent opportunity for novice competitors or newly injured veterans to regain confidence and rediscover the joy of movement and competition.

#### Featured Events:

- Air Guns
- Archery
- Basketball
- Bowling
- Field Events
- Handcycling
- Motor Rally
- Power Soccer
- Quad Rugby
- Slalom
- Softball
- Swimming
- Table Tennis
- Track
- Weightlifting

#### Exhibition Events:

- Power Chair Relay

#### For More Information and Registration Materials, Contact:

Paralyzed Veterans of America,  
Sports and Recreation Program  
(800) 424-8200, ext. 752 or 657,  
(800) 795-4327 (tty),

or

Scott Kelter  
Alaska VA Healthcare System  
(907) 334-3503

Scott.Kelter@med.va.gov

or visit

[www.wheelchairgames.org](http://www.wheelchairgames.org)



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY APRIL

John Tumidajski  
Edward McGrath  
Donna Decker  
Noah Brown  
Darrell March  
Ludwig Kaftan  
John Rourke  
William Christensen  
Gene Ackerman  
Lot Christensen  
Teresa Fiorie  
Larry Mills  
Tony Gonzalez  
Tony Alagna

Ronnie Lucier  
Charles Hill  
Arthur Munoz  
Ben Bowser  
Roger Delpier  
Wayne Ford  
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