



Fall 2021

THE BULLETIN

Mid-Atlantic Chapter - Paralyzed Veterans of America

Mid-Atlantic Chapter



NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

The 40th NVWG were held in New York City this summer, and many Mid-Atlantic athletes participated. Check out who brought home medals!

BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Mid-Atlantic hosted a wildly successful 5th Annual PVA/AWBA Bowling Invitational, with PVA participants from all over the country.

ELECTION RESULTS

Thanks to all those that voted in this year's election. Our Board continues to dedicate its time to assisting our members and the growth of our chapter.



A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY FOR CAPABLE HEROES

11620 Busy Street
North Chesterfield, VA 23236
Tel. (804) 378-0017
Toll Free. 1-800-852-7639
Fax. (804) 378-0026
Email: VAPVA@aol.com
www.pvamidatlantic.org

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Jimmy May - President
Jessie Oliff - Vice President
Jeffrey Dolezal - Treasurer
Terence Smith - Secretary
Johnny Holland - Sports Director
Paul Austin - Director
Arnold Beard - Director
Melvin Washington - Director
Rickey Wood - Director

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Chester Purvis, Richmond 1-804-675-5316
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Levi Koepp, Hampton 1-757-722-9961 Ext. 2943

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President's Report

Jimmy May



The pages of the calendar have turned, and just like that fall is upon us. Before we know it we will be preparing for the holidays and a new year will greet us. Things are moving quickly, but we don't want to get ahead of ourselves – the past few months have generated some memorable events for our Mid-Atlantic Chapter and our members. Just like all of you, I can't wait for the words *pandemic*, *variant* and *masks* to become a thing of the past, but thankfully we are gradually and safely getting back on-track. On the pages ahead you will see some wonderful photos and recaps of our recent events – with much more to come in 2022. We will remember the summer with sincere thoughts of thanks and appreciation:

- Our partnership with the Travis Manion Foundation, which has again generously honored our chapter as a beneficiary of their incredible 9/11 Heroes Run.
- In the final year of their longstanding Benefit Motorcycle Ride, the Frazier-Mason Foundation graciously donated \$10,000 to our Mid-Atlantic Chapter.

Many of you participated in our 5th Annual PVA Mid-Atlantic/AWBA Bowling Invitational in September, and I am sure you will agree, it was a huge success. In addition to bowlers from 13 states joining us for singles and doubles competition, we hosted an Up & Down event, pairing our members with folks from the community for a fun night of bowling, while proudly sharing and highlighting our mission. Our thanks to PVA National and AWBA for hosting a bowling clinic which exceeded all expectations. "I couldn't be more impressed with the turnout," said Keith Cooper, PVA's Program Manager for the Bowling Tour Series. "The Mid-Atlantic Chapter will be remembered for having the most participants since we started offering bowling clinics to our members."

Finally, I want to express my personal thanks and appreciation to each of you, our members, who participated in the election process for our Fiscal Year 2022 Board of Directors. I am humbled and honored to have been elected to a second term as your board president, and proud to be surrounded by a board which shares my passion for our chapter and its members. We vow to work hard on your behalf, providing the necessary resources and offering various events for your participation. In other words, dedicating ourselves to our membership.

As always, we encourage you to reach out to us. Let us hear from you. Share your stories. Most of all, be an active part of our chapter. We are here with you, and we are here for you.

And don't forget – please join us for our Family Fall Fest on October 23rd.

Respectfully,

Jimmy May
President

PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

FAMILY FALL FEST

OCTOBER 23, 12PM - 3PM

Pocahontas State Park,
Shelter2
10301 State Park Rd,
Chesterfield, VA 23832



COME OUT AND BRING YOUR
FAMILY TO OUR FALL FEST GET
TOGETHER!

- FOOD AND DRINKS
- GAMES AND ACTIVITIES FOR
ADULTS AND KIDS
- ENTERTAINMENT AND MORE!

RSVP at 804-378-0017
or email vapva.sarah@gmail.com

GET TO KNOW

Jessie Oliff

VICE PRESIDENT - MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER
CHAIR - MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



First, I would like to say how grateful I am to be a part of this incredible Chapter and everything it stands for. You may not realize it, but the Mid-Atlantic Chapter is one of the 6 founding member chapters of PVA, so our history goes way back to the 1940's and the World War II era. Pretty wild, right? As members, I think this is something that we can all be proud of – the fact that in many ways our chapter has helped pave the way in developing PVA's mission.

Let me tell you a few other things that I am proud of. In my role as an Executive Officer, I'm proud to work every day for you. My fellow Board members are terrific, and I think we have a great team in place to lead the chapter, provide the resources, and develop creative new programs and events. We take these responsibilities very seriously, but we have a lot of fun at the same time.

I am also the Chair of our Membership Committee, which is how I spend a lot of my time. We have more than 800 members in our chapter, but unfortunately the numbers are going down instead of increasing. As I told you, our chapter is going on 75 years old, and sadly, every month we learn of more and more of our members who are passing away. While we pay our respects to those we have lost, it is important to recognize others like us who continue to deal with spinal cord injury and disease.

What I'm saying is simple – we need to reach-out to our fellow Vets and let them know we are here for them. We need to share our stories and our positive experiences as PVA members. This is how you can help me, help our chapter, and most important, help educate others who may not be aware of the benefits associated with being a member of our Mid-Atlantic Chapter.

COVID has played havoc with our recruiting efforts, but we have started to again engage with our VAMC teams in Virginia & North Carolina and meet face-to-face (mask-to-mask) with many newly injured Vets. I remember how I felt when I was in the hospital after suffering my injury – hospitalized for a very, very long time. Just talking to someone meant a lot. Talking to someone from PVA helped change my life. Together, let's help to change the lives of others who have experienced what we have.

How many people do you know that give-out their cell numbers and e-mail addresses? Well I do, and here they are for you – with the open invitation to get in touch with me, anytime:

Jessie Oliff

(916) 606-8571

jesse_oliff@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events



Board of Directors Meeting

The First Wednesday of Every Month

Our Board of Directors meets every month to discuss chapter matters and help us to progress forward as a chapter.

Off-Road Fall Expo

September 30 - October 3

The PVA handcycling expo will be held at Pocahontas State Park.



ITAC Golf Tournament

October 7

ITAC will be hosting a charitable golf tournament and partnering with MAPVA to benefit our chapter!

Family Fall Fest

October 23

Come celebrate our first get-together in over a year with the Family Fall Fest in Pocahontas State Park.



The Golf Tournament for Everyone

October 23 & 24

Hosted by Positive Vibe Cafe, this tournament consists of golf, soccer, and frisbee for people of all abilities. Sign up at www.positiveviberva.com.

The PATA Inaugural Wheelchair Tennis Open

December 17-19

The Piedmont Area Tennis Association is hosting a wheelchair tennis tournament. Registration information is on the Mid-Atlantic website and social media.



Board of Directors Election Results

Thank you to all of our members who took the time to vote in our Fiscal Year 2022 Board of Directors election. Our chapter wouldn't be able to do what it does without your participation. Thank you to our members who accepted the nomination, as well. Your dedication to our chapter did not go unnoticed. Congratulations to those elected to our board and we're excited to see what's in store for 2022.

President - Jimmy May
Vice President - Jessie Oliff
Secretary - Terence Smith
Treasurer - Jeffrey Dolezal

Paul Austin
Arnold Beard
Johnny Holland
Melvin Washington
Rickey Wood

PVA's New Advocacy Network, "PVAAction Force"

Paralyzed Veterans of America has launched a new grassroots advocacy network called "PVAAction Force". Through PVAAction Force, members can take part in petitions, receive important legislative alerts, and learn more about the advocacy efforts of PVA relating to those with spinal cord injuries and diseases, as well as all people with disabilities. Currently, PVA is launching multiple campaigns, from automobile grants to equal access to air travel that members can participate in. To learn more about PVAAction Force, take action in campaigns, and sign petitions to better the lives of veterans and all those with disabilities, visit <https://www.pva.org/research-resources/pvaction-force/>.

For the launch of PVAAction Force, a petition has been put together for Congress to pass the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act. While the Air Carrier Access Act was passed 35 years ago, travelers with disabilities continue to face discrimination, including damaged or lost wheelchairs when stowed, limited access to lavatories, and limited access to seating accommodations. We ask that you sign the petition to demand that Congress end the discrimination toward travelers with disabilities and to better provide equal access.

With Paralyzed Veterans of America's Veterans Career Program,

You Will:

- Receive carefully tailored **one-on-one support** from a career expert team member.
- Set goals to achieve your career objective.
- Learn how to craft an effective resume and cover letter specific to your career interests.
- Develop effective interview and communication skills so you are confident in interviews.
- Craft job search strategies to meet your employment goals.
- Create an effective LinkedIn profile.
- Identify and engage in networking opportunities.
- Build confidence in your career pursuits.
- And much more!



We Will:

- Provide one-on-one guidance to help you find **meaningful employment, education and volunteer opportunities**.
- Assess your current abilities, training, and experience and help you identify career goals.
- Guide you through development and enhancement of your resume and cover letter.
- Teach you how to build an effective LinkedIn profile page.
- Practice mock interviews to hone your skills before you interact with employers.
- Regularly communicate with you to track progress and identify other resources to assist in the job search process.
- Be a **Partner for Life** to assist you for the duration of your career.

40th National Veterans Wheelchair Games



With last year's 2020 National Veterans Wheelchair Games canceled due to the pandemic, the Mid-Atlantic Muscle was eager this year to compete for their chance to win gold in New York City. Our chapter had members attend the games and compete virtually, and we swept the competition, bringing home a total of 52 medals! Thanks to all of our participants that represented our chapter in New York and at home. We'll see you next year at the 2022 games in Tempe, Arizona!

Joshua Burch

- Gold - Disc Golf
- Gold - Discus
- Gold - Javelin
- Gold - Shot Put
- Gold - Rugby
- Gold - Slalom
- Gold - Table Tennis

Johnny Holland

- Gold - Rugby
- Gold - Billiards
- Gold - Table Tennis
- Gold - Boccia
- Gold - Nine Ball
- Silver - Adapted Sports

Jesse Lind

- Gold - Basketball
- Silver - Boccia
- Bronze - Softball

Ronald Richardson

- Silver - Nine Ball
- Bronze - Table Tennis

At Home:

- Gold - Air Rifle
- Silver - Bowling - Manual

Kathleen Tilbury

- Gold - Boccia
- Silver - Power Soccer

At Home:

- Gold - Swimming 100 yd free
- Gold - Swimming 200 yd free
- Gold - Swimming 50 yd back
- Gold - Bowling Handleball

Christopher Dominick

- Silver - Adaptive Fitness
- Silver - Discus
- Silver - Javelin
- Silver - Shot Put

Jackie Jones

- Gold - Slalom

At Home:

- Gold - Cycling

Kathreen Jones

- Gold - Table Tennis

At Home:

- Gold - Bowling Ramp
- Gold - Table Tennis

Glenn McClary

- Silver - Basketball
- Silver - Table Tennis
- Bronze - Disc Golf

Amy McKee

- Gold - Soccer
- Gold - Table Tennis

Freddie Smith

- Gold - Discus
- Gold - Javelin
- Gold - Basketball
- Bronze - Nine Ball

Kevin Tenney

- Gold - Nine Ball
- Bronze - Basketball

Thomas Nesmith

- Gold - Boccia
- Gold - Motorized Rally



Virtual Participants

Jamison Greene

- Gold - Bowling Ramp

Jessica Oliff

- Gold - Trap Shooting
- Gold - Air Rifle

Melvin Washington

- Silver - Bowling Ramp





Mid-Atlantic Remembers September 11th

This year we commemorated the 20th anniversary of the tragedy of the attacks on September 11th. To honor those lost on that day, and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the war on terror, Mid-Atlantic was privileged to attend the Travis Manion Foundation 9/11 Heroes Run and the Frazier-Mason Motorcycle Ride, as well as receive extremely generous donations from both organizations. Thanks to all those who came out to the events to represent Mid-Atlantic and our veterans.



Travis Manion Foundation 9/11 Heroes Run





Frazier-Mason Some Gave All Foundation Motorcycle Ride



*Happy Holidays
and Happy New
Year!*

**Happy Birthday to
all our members
with October,
November, and
December
birthdays!**

We wish all of of you a very safe and
Happy Holiday and we hope you have a
very Happy New Year. Here's to 2022!

Congrats!



Mid-Atlantic would like to congratulate Leah Thomas, the daughter of member Richard Thomas, for being one of only six recipients of the PVA Educational Scholarship. Leah just finished her first year at Halifax Community College in their 2+2 program where she will receive her Bachelor's in social work. Leah regularly attends mission trips through Wide Awake Missions and is currently planning to lead a mission trip through Wide Awake Missions to Peru next summer. She hopes to continue to plan mission trips after receiving her degree, as well as continue her education and receive her Master's in social work. Using her degree, Leah would also like to work at the VA hospital, as she spent some time there with her father and was inspired by the quality of care she witnessed. We couldn't think of someone more deserving than Leah to receive this scholarship and we are excited for what the future has in store for her!

Spotlights

Sabine Coiner
Jim Jones
Scott Radcliff

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Dedication, loyalty and unwavering support of our Mid-Atlantic Chapter - Just a quick description of what Sabine, Jim and Scott mean to our members. It doesn't matter the event, this dynamic trio is there, always ready, willing and able to do whatever is asked. From fishing to bowling and everything in between, they have become so familiar with our events, sometimes they don't even have to be asked – they just do! "We've gotten to know so many of the Veterans over the years, that they've sort of become family," according to Sabine. Not only that, but their spirit of doing and supporting our Veterans has become contagious within their own families. Sabine's husband, Richard, is the dedicated mechanic for our chapter vehicle, and after a last minute cancellation, even stepped-up to partner with one of our bowlers in the Up & Down Event at last month's tournament. Jim is often joined by his wife, Lori - and their sons are always counted on for various needs at our annual fishing tournament. "To us, PVA has become much more than just giving back to the community," says Jim. "We really feel a part of the events and a part of making it a special day or weekend for all of the Vets." Along with Jim, Scott has mastered the art of logistics, working in a leadership role with T-Force Freight (formerly UPS). It's their leadership, attention to detail and ability to quickly react to unexpected changes that makes them invaluable at our events. Scott and his wife, Kim, always have smiles on their faces, but their widest grins may have come in watching their daughter Hailey assist with registration at the Bowling Invitational. "She just jumped right into it," said Scott. "But what meant the most to Kim and me was seeing Hailey get a feel for what volunteering is really all about, and how good it makes you feel." When it comes to Sabine, Jim and Scott, we are the ones who always feel good. Good in knowing that our chapter, and especially our members, are surrounded by such big hearts. Thank you to our Dynamic Trio. We couldn't do it without you!



Joe Dunn
George Mason Mortgage

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

When he says "It's a Dunn Deal" he means it. Not only professionally, where Joe opened the Richmond branch of George Mason Mortgage almost 9 years ago, but personally as well. It is hard to imagine that there are enough hours in a day, days in a week, and weeks in a year for all that Joe means to our communities. 15 years ago Joe began working closely with Pro Football Hall of Famer Darrell Green and his Youth Life Foundation. Joe's work in hosting the annual Darrell Green Celebrity Golf Tournament has generated enormous funding, directly benefiting the youth of Central Virginia. Joe sits on the Boards of Directors of the YMCA of Greater Richmond, the Homebuilders Association of Richmond, and soon will take over as the Richmond Chapter President of the Hampden-Sydney College Alumni Association. Veterans are an important part of Joe's life, and his support of our Mid-Atlantic Chapter is greatly appreciated. "I want my support of PVA to grow, and I look forward to actively engaging at your events and doing what I can to make a difference for all of our Vets," Joe said recently. When it comes to working with his mortgage clients, Joe is known in the industry as a guy who not only provides an exceptional, personal touch, but will always go the extra mile to tailor a loan which fits an individual's specific needs. It is his genuine caring approach which sets him apart professionally. Our Mid-Atlantic Chapter is grateful and appreciative of his caring approach when it comes to our Veterans. Thank you for all you do, Joe. Hopefully the growth of our relationship will never become a "Dunn Deal".

GEORGE MASON
MORTGAGE
 A SUBSIDIARY OF UNITED BANK

2021 PVA MID-ATLANTIC

5th Annual Mid-Atlantic/AWBA Bowling Invitational

The beginning of Fall welcomed the 5th Annual Mid-Atlantic/AWBA Bowling Invitational, hosted September 24-26 at Bowl America in Short Pump. The tournament brought in wheelchair bowlers from thirteen different states around the country to compete for first prize. Along with the main competition on Saturday and Sunday were the Doubles event where bowlers competed as pairs, and everyone's favorite, the Up & Down event. On the first night of the tournament members of the community came out to bowl with our wheelchair bowlers and had the chance to win a number of raffles and giveaways. Also on Friday, PVA hosted a bowling clinic taught by seasoned wheelchair bowlers for both participants looking to improve their game and for bowling newcomers interested in getting started. Saturday and Sunday the participants bowled 12 games and it was a close fight to get the number one spot. As always, thanks to all of our participants, volunteers, and partners for another great tournament!



Scratch Division

1st - Dave Nelson Jr.
2nd - George Holscher
3rd - Brooks Martin
4th - Eddy Hutchens
5th - Keith Scott

A Divison

1st - Carl LaGrotteria
2nd - Wayne Webber
3rd - Frank Goebel
4th - Randall Pope
5th - Richard Mahaney
6th - Gary Poole

B Division

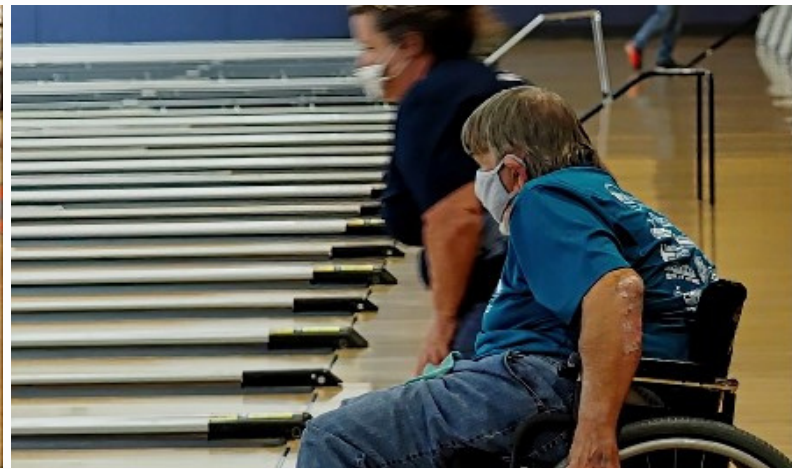
1st - Mike Marcheskie
2nd - Dave McGinnes
3rd - Keith Green
4th - Mike Tucker
5th - Johnny Holland
6th - Ronald Richardson

Doubles

1st - Carl LaGrotteria & Wayne Webber
2nd - Brooks Martin & Dave McGinnes
3rd - Richard Mahaney & Mike Tucker

Up & Down Event

1st - Richard Mahaney, Jeff Rodgers, & Jarrett Garbee
2nd - Brooks Martin, Steve Lickliter, & Perry Wilson
3rd - Mike Marcheskie, Ken Dich, & Elizabeth Fisher



Paralyzed Veterans of America
Mid-Atlantic Chapter
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Midlothian, Virginia



Paralyzed Veterans
of America

WHEELS HELPING
WARRIORS

Your donated vehicle can go far in helping severely injured veterans. Donations are sold at auction with proceeds going toward programs and services for veterans and their families. You may also receive a tax break, too!



WheelsHelpingWarriors.org / 866-204-4548

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