



Mid-Atlantic Chapter

THE BULLETIN

Mid-Atlantic Chapter - Paralyzed Veterans of America



NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

The 41st NVWG were held in Tempe, AZ this summer, and many Mid-Atlantic athletes participated. See who brought home medals!

OLD DOMINION BRAWL

Another ODB in the books! Check out our winners and pictures from the tournament.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

It is that time again for our Board of Directors election. Important voting deadlines and BOD dates are included inside.



Mid-Atlantic Chapter

A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY FOR CAPABLE HEROES

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Board of Directors

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

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Executive Director - Ivan Schwartz
Bookkeeper - Regina Watson-Fields

National Service Officers

Mike Keba, Roanoke 1-540-897-1707
Chris Custer, Richmond 1-804-675-5316
William Pack, Winston-Salem 1-336-251-0834
Levi Koepp, Hampton 1-757-722-9961 Ext. 2943

IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 Our President's Words
- 4 National Veterans
Wheelchair Games
- 5 Mid-Atlantic Muscle
Medals
- 6 Family Affair
- 7 Tales from Tempe
- 8 National Service
Officer Report
- 9 6th Annual PVA/AWBA
Bowling Invitational
- 10 Old Dominion Brawl
- 13 Our Mid-Atlantic
Community
- 14 Membership Meeting &
Board of Directors Election

President's Report

Jimmy May



What a few months it's been! From our annual Mid-Atlantic events to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, from a terrific membership meeting to the start of our election cycle, a few things have hit me between the eyes. First, I am so grateful that things seem to be moving in a forward direction – by that I mean we are slowly “opening up” and getting back to a sense of normalcy. Secondly, it has reinforced in my mind the strength of our Chapter, and what we mean to our members. With all of the responsibility associated with being in a leadership role, sometimes it is easy to lose sight of the big picture – our mission and each of our members. Being surrounded by an incredibly dedicated and passionate Board has helped me maintain that focus, and for that I say thank you. And I also say

thank you to each of you for being such loyal ambassadors of our Chapter and supporting our mission, while allowing us to assist you in living beyond your injury. Back in June, I experienced our Old Dominion Brawl fishing tournament from the perspective of a participant. Let's just say that I'm not the greatest angler in the world, but it was still a very memorable weekend. More than the fish, it was about catching-up with our members, meeting a bunch of dedicated community partners and volunteers, and exposing our Chapter to a lot of newcomers. I know the same will be said about our 6th Annual Mid-Atlantic/AWBA Bowling Tournament in September. The registration information is available on our website, and we hope you'll think about attending. Remember, we are interested in all levels of bowlers, so even if you're just considering giving bowling a try, this is a great opportunity. We will also be hosting a clinic which is the perfect way for novice bowlers to get a feel for the game.

Last month we sent our team of 19 Mid-Atlantic athletes and 3 incredible rec therapists to Tempe, Arizona to compete in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games – and compete they did! The pictures in this issue only tell a small part of the story. Throughout the week our team was atop the leaderboard in overall medals, but beyond the competition, it was the Mid-Atlantic team spirit, sportsmanship and pride in being a member of our Chapter which stood out. We congratulate and thank all of our members who represented us proudly, and look forward to next year in Portland, Oregon – with more athletes, more medals and more fun!

On the administrative side, the health of our Chapter is very strong, both financially and operationally. We are in the midst of our election cycle which will determine the Board of Directors for fiscal year '23. Additionally, our committees are in the process of a thorough review of our Chapter bylaws and policies & procedures. Stay tuned, as you may be asked to vote on suggested changes or amendments. As our VA Medical Centers are gradually opening their doors for us as a Chapter, we are in the process of scheduling a full membership meeting for September. This follows our June meeting which coincided with the send-off reception for our NWVG team. We will alert you when the date next is chosen, and we hope you will plan on attending.

It is my pleasure to serve as your president. I hope that together, we can continue to make our Chapter stand-out as a model for others, while expanding and growing to serve your needs.

Jimmy May
President
PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter



41st National Veterans Wheelchair Games

The heat was on during the 41st National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Tempe, Arizona. Forget the temperatures which pushed 120 degrees each day – the real heat, the real fire came from the burning competitive spirit of our 19 Mid-Atlantic Chapter athletes who crossed the country and turned the desert into their mecca for medal magic. Finishing third in the medal competition among the 33 PVA chapters was quite a feat, but something else shined brightly. A week of camaraderie, teamwork and positive energy truly showcased our Mid-Atlantic Chapter pride. Look out Portland, Oregon – PVA Mid-Atlantic is on its way to bring the heat in 2023!

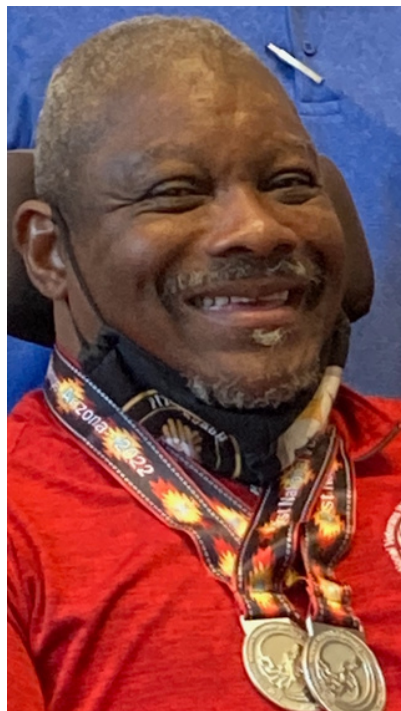


Mid-Atlantic Muscle Medals



OVERALL MEDALS -Top 5 Chapters-

	<u>Gold</u>	<u>Silver</u>	<u>Bronze</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Buckeye	55	24	24	97
2. Southeastern	35	17	17	69
3. Mid-Atlantic	26	12	12	49
4. Gateway	26	11	11	48
5. New England	20	18	18	46





Family Affair

The smiles and fun were evident throughout the week at the NVWG, with a taste of Mid-Atlantic family spirit. Our athletes were surrounded by their spouses, kids, significant others and caregivers who enjoyed touring the town and soaking-up the sites which Arizona provided. No question, the loudest cheering sections at the arenas and the most high-fives were in support of our Mid-Atlantic Muscle athletes.





Tales from Tempe



NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES
July 7-12, 2022 • Tempe, AZ

Congrats 2022 NVWG All-Star Team

We are proud to announce the NVWG All-Star Team that will be representing at the World Wheelchair Softball World Series, August 4-6, 2022 in Chicago, Illinois.

Players were selected by their athleticism/sportsmanship on the field and via nominations by their peers!

Roster

Ryan Garza	Lee Sexton
Centra Mazyck	Jackie Jones
Patrick Peterson	Matt Hannon
Keyla Agosto	Jessie Lind
Robert York	Paul Stewart
Austin Walters	David Russ Norris
John Wade	Paul Mann



Athleticism, sportsmanship, and oh yeah, they can hit the ball a country mile. Lee Sexton, Jesse Lind and Jackie Jones, Jr. were selected as NVWG All-Stars, representing the Mid-Atlantic Chapter at the Wheelchair Softball World Series in Chicago. Quite an honor to be selected by their peers and quite a feat for our Mid-Atlantic athletes to claim 3 of the 14 roster spots. Best of luck, Lee, Jesse and Jackie!

Just one day into the NVWG, PVA Mid-Atlantic member Kevin Tenney was hospitalized, and unfortunately spent more than a week at the Phoenix VA Medical Center. Our chapter was proud to assist Kevin's wife Kelly with hotel accommodations, allowing her to remain in Arizona until Kevin's discharge. Thankfully, Kevin is 100% back-on-track, already training to compete in the 2023 NVWG.



The words *Thank You* are not strong enough to express our appreciation to the team of Recreation Therapists who supported, coached and cheered-on our Mid-Atlantic athletes throughout the week. It was a gold medal outpouring of dedication and love - We could not have done it without you! L to R: Tara Bright (Fayetteville), Irene Montero (Richmond), Abena Jones-Boone (Durham)

National Service Officer Report Chris Custer



Hello Mid-Atlantic PVA Members,
My hope is everyone has been enjoying this beautiful summer weather and taking advantage of the opportunities available to participate in outdoor activities that bring you joy. Here are a few updates I want to share with you from Richmond VAMC:

Visitor Policy

Currently, the hospital's covid-19 policy is on HIGH alert as positive cases have emerged among patients. While all veterans are still able to come to the hospital for appointments or services, only pre-approved visitors are authorized to visit patients. The goal of this policy implementation is to reduce the influx of visitors who may have been exposed to covid bringing it into the hospital rooms.

There are specific situations which visitors are authorized:

- Training for programs such as Caregiver Program
- Patients approaching end-of-life
- Within the 1st 7 days of acute care (to setup care plans, discharge plans/instructions, etc.)

In order to be pre-approved for visitation, be sure to contact the hospital (804-675-5000) and explain you are seeking authorization for visitation. You will be directed to the appropriate person/department who can make this authorization based on your situation. When arriving to the hospital, you will be greeted by security at the door who can confirm this authorization and direct you to the appropriate area of the hospital to visit.

No proof of negative covid test or proof of vaccination is required to enter the hospital, though masks are still required to enter the hospital, though masks are still required to be worn. If you do not have a mask on-hand, one can be provided at the hospital entrance.

VA Covid-19 Time Extensions

As coronavirus still negatively affects so many areas of our lives, VA recognizes the impact of this pandemic on filing of claims, appeals, submission of evidence, and attendance of appointments/exams. Since March 1, 2020, we have been in a national public health emergency due to covid and VA has taken measures to account for the delays this has caused. If any of your claim or appeal processes have been affected by covid, VA has granted good cause time extensions to accommodate.

As there is no specific form requirement for requesting good cause extensions of time limits, VBA will accept COVID-19 pandemic-related extension requests on any form or written documentation. To request an extension of filing a claim or appeal due to COVID-19, claimants should:

- note the request on their late-filed application, or
- attach the request as a separate document to their late-filed application

Hope this information is beneficial and please reach out with any questions.

Wishing you all a healthy & happy summer!

Best,
Chris Custer



PVA MID-ATLANTIC/AWBA 6TH ANNUAL INVITATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

September 9-11,
2022

Bowl America

4400 Pouncey Tract Rd
Glen Allen, VA 23060



Hosted by the Paralyzed Veterans of America Mid-Atlantic Chapter, this three day tournament will consist of a bowling clinic, three days of competition, and an Up/Down tournament that will pair a veteran in a wheelchair with a stand-up bowler for a chance to win cash prizes.

Registration for the tournament and the Up/Down competition can be found at pvamidatlantic.org.

Registration Deadline - August 29



☎ 804-378-0017

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🌐 www.pvamidatlantic.org

2022 PVA MID-ATLANTIC

Old Dominion Brawl

In June, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter hosted its annual Old Dominion Brawl Bass Fishing Tournament. Our members competed with Veterans from around the country on the James and Appomattox Rivers for the largest prize pool we have ever offered. We thank all of our anglers, volunteers and community partners for their support and dedication – especially that of our incredible Tournament Director, Calvin “Catfish” Hunter”, whose passion for his fellow Vets and pride in the ODB is never ending. Grab your calendar and reserve the weekend of June 2-4 for the 2023 Old Dominion Brawl!





Open Division Angler				
Place	Angler	Boat Partner	# of Fish	Weight
1	Teresa Brown	Cody Casey	5	17.17
2	Paul Julian	Paul Martin	5	15.88
3	Daryl Newton	Donnie Bell	5	14.69
4	Wesley Epps	Todd Long	5	14.24
5	Kurt Glass	Cullen Hoover	5	13.42

Big Bass: Jeff Koch with a catch weighing 4.78 lbs.

Open Division Team				
Place	Angler	Boat Partner	# of Fish	Weight
1	Daryl Newton	Donnie Bell	5	18.15
2	Kurt Glass	Cullen Hoover	5	16.48
3	Jason Manges	Gary Malkin	5	15.6
4	Arthur Hunt	Dylan Shepard	5	15.13
5	Paul Stewart	Wade Rook	5	15.04

Big Bass: Mike Schmitz with a catch weighing 6.01 lbs.

Saturday Bank Division		
Place	Angler	Weight
1	Christine Ledger	4.25
2	Johnny Holland	3.83
3	Jessie Oliff	1.18

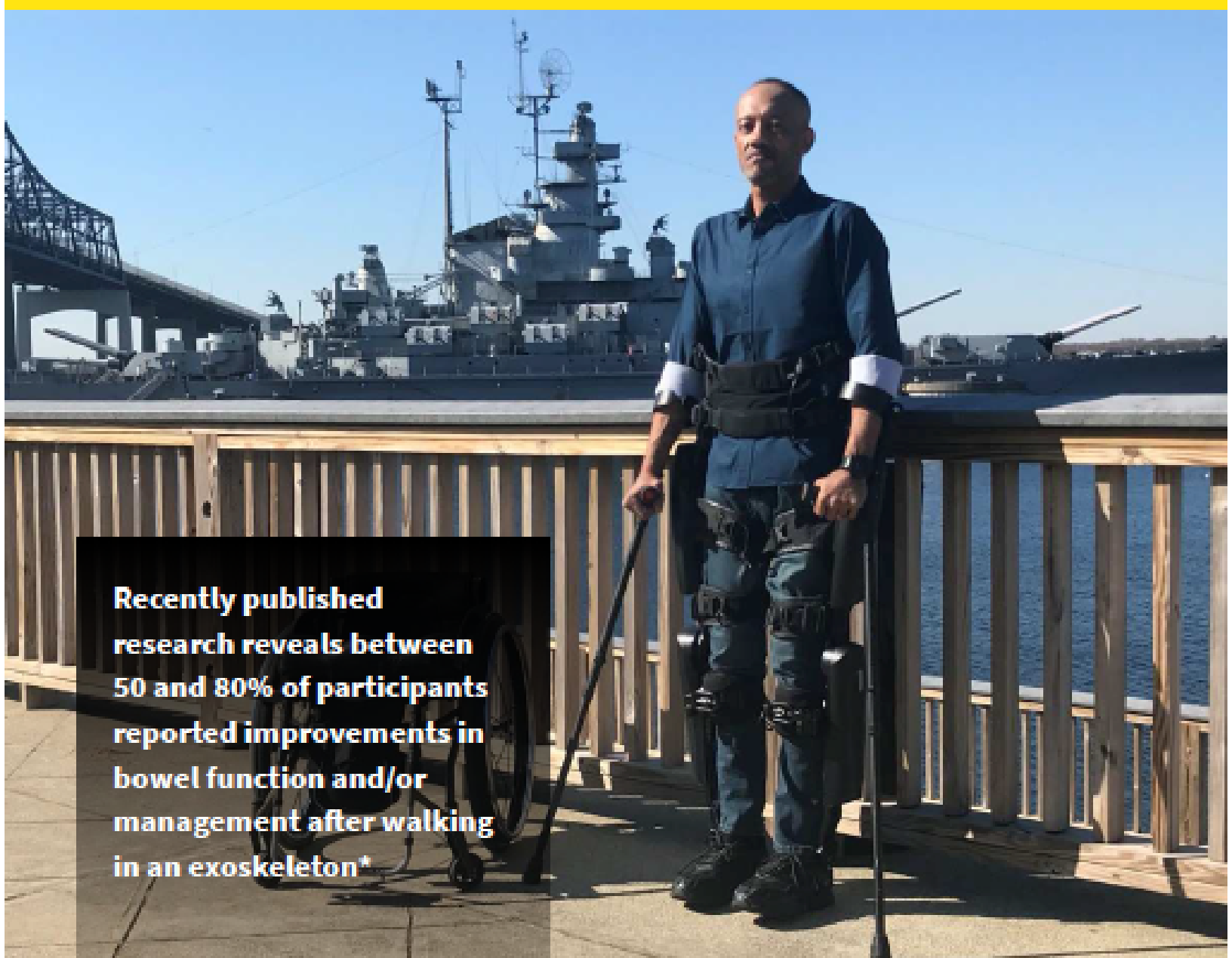
Big Fish: Johnny Holland with a catch weighing 3.83 lbs.

Sunday Bank Division		
Place	Angler	Weight
1	Michael Murphy	3.26
2	Susie Lane	3.03
3	Coreen Broomfield	1.61

Big Fish: Michael Murphy and Susie Lane tied with a catch weighing 2.21 lbs.



Want To Improve Your Bowel Function?



Recently published research reveals between 50 and 80% of participants reported improvements in bowel function and/or management after walking in an exoskeleton*

Did you know Paralyzed US Veterans May be Eligible for a ReWalk Personal Exoskeleton?

**Contact ReWalk for more Information:
rewalk.com/contact or
508.251.1154 option 2**

Our Mid-Atlantic Community



Our active duty volunteers from Ft. Lee at the Old Dominion Brawl



A memorable skydiving experience for Johnny Holland

Thanks to Operation Warrior Wishes for providing Mid-Atlantic members a VIP experience at the Washington Commanders training camp.

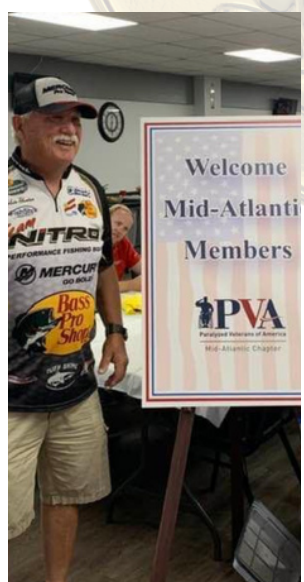


Dan Watkins promoting PVA at the NC Disabled Sportsmen Convention



Memorial Day honors at the Amelia National Veterans Cemetery

Gary Malkin of FishStyx showing his chapter support with President Jimmy May



Thanks to the Hopewell Police and Firefighters for assisting at the Old Dominion Brawl



Donating a lift to a Veteran in need



Calvin Hunter with Membership Meeting greetings



Coordinating an anonymous van donation for the family of a hospitalized member



Membership Meeting



Thanks to American Legion Post 146 for hosting our June Membership Meeting. Mid-Atlantic Chapter members joined the Board of Directors in an open discussion of events, policies and chapter growth, while nominations were accepted for the Fiscal Year '23 Board. The gathering also provided an opportunity for an energized send-off banquet for our Mid-Atlantic NVWG team members.



Board of Directors Election Timeline

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--|--------------------|--|
| June 10 | Letters were sent to all members soliciting nominations | August 15 | Postmarked deadline for completed ballots to be returned |
| July 5 | Deadline that nominations were to be received | August 17 | Ballots to be independently tabulated |
| July 6-7 | Election Committee contacted nominees to confirm acceptance – BOD responsibilities were outlined | August 18 | Fiscal Year 2023 BOD to be announced |
| July 15 | Official election ballots were mailed to voting members | September 7 | Newly elected Directors to attend Board Meeting |
| | | October 1 | Newly elected Directors formally assume office |

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CALLING VETERANS WITH MS: JOIN OUR FAMILY!

