



Mid-Atlantic Chapter

SUMMER 2026

THE BULLETIN

Paralyzed Veterans of America
Mid-Atlantic Chapter



CAMARADERIE & COMPETITION

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Mid-Atlantic Chapter



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OUR PRESIDENT'S WORDS

Jimmy May



The time comes for all of us to embrace change and move forward, with a strong sense that maybe, just maybe, we made a small difference.

That time has come for me, as I graciously and respectfully hand over the reins to our newly elected Board of Directors.

When I look at the roster of our new board, and I am certain you agree, it is a strong, dedicated, passionate and diverse group of chapter members.

In other words, we are all in very good hands moving forward.

As your president, and with the support of so many quality directors, we were able to strengthen our chapter, and in many ways, become a model for other PVA chapters nationwide. For that, I could not be any more proud.

Our financial house is in order, new programs, functions and events have been introduced, we have seen a growth in membership and expanded our exposure through creative social media platforms, but most of all, we developed focused strategies to engage more of our 800+ members.

That being said, there is always more work to do.

I may be moving into the background, giving way to a new set of energetic directors, but they will have 100% of my support, knowing that I will always remain available as a resource, helping out where I can, when I can.

It is bittersweet, but this is certainly not saying goodbye - The PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter has been an important part of my life for decades, becoming a part of my family - and that will never change.

When Ronald Reagan left the Oval Office in 1989, he reflected on patriotism, loyalty, and his vision of America as being a "shining city on a hill."

I think of our chapter in that same light, and I am proud, humbled and thankful to be just one of many who helped cultivate that hill, for all of us to enjoy its peak.

Respectfully,

Jimmy May
President
PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Upcoming Dates

SEPT. 7	LABOR DAY
SEPT. 11-13	PVA MID-ATLANTIC INVITATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT
OCT. 1	NEWLY ELECTED DIRECTORS OFFICIALLY TAKE OFFICE
NOV. 11	VETERANS DAY
NOV. 26	THANKSGIVING DAY

PIC O' THE MONTH PHOTO CONTEST

We want to see the fun that our PVA members and their families and friends are having in the community, so we have introduced a photo contest – the more fun, the better the pictures.

The winner will receive a prize, and their picture will be featured on the PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter website, socials, and newsletter!



SCAN TO SUBMIT
A PHOTO

PHOTO SUBMISSION IDEAS FOR SEPTEMBER:

-  Back to School
-  Cook outs
-  Outdoor adventures
-  Sporting events



A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY FOR CAPABLE HEROES

Board of Directors

Jimmy May - President
Johnny Holland - Vice President
Amy McKee - Secretary
Jeffrey Dolezal - Treasurer
Takeyla Adams - Director
Arnold Beard - Director
Matthew Cole - Director
Rich Goebel - Director
Mark Hartney - Director
George Holscher - Director

Staff

Executive Director - Ivan Schwartz
Bookkeeper - Regina Watson-Fields
Communications & Events Coordinator - Julianne Hart

National Service Officers

Sarah Pettit, Richmond
(804) 675-5316
Nikki Owens and Zack Halgren, Roanoke
(540) 897-1707
Mark Antonitis and Matthew Parker, Winston-Salem
(336) 251-0836

AUGUST PIC O' THE MONTH



WINNER: Brent Patterson

PVA Mid-Atlantic Members George Holscher, Rich Goebel, and Brent Patterson at the AWBA National Bowling Championship. Pictured celebrating their wins at Franconi's in Romeoville, IL. LOOK AT ALL THOSE TROPHIES!

“

QUOTES FROM CAPITOL HILL

“It’s an honor to represent our Mid-Atlantic Chapter members on Capitol Hill, and something I don’t take lightly.”

-Mark Hartney

“PVA’s legislative priorities are designed to make a difference in our lives – hopefully we’ll see positive change.”

-Jackie Jones, Jr.

“Advocacy is a strong part of our chapter mission and meeting with members of Congress showcases that strength.”

-Johnny Holland

“If we can make even a small difference for our Vets, getting in front of our elected officials is well worth it.”

-George Holscher



Advocacy & Legislation Week

JUNE 9 - 11, 2026

2026 PVA Mid-Atlantic Scholarship Recipients

The mission of the Paralyzed Veterans of America Mid-Atlantic Chapter Scholarship Program is to provide financial assistance to qualified individuals pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree or attaining certification through an accredited trade school.

BEULAH AYAMGA

Coppin St. University

CALEB FINLEY

High Point University

ANIYA WOODS

University of Vermont

CONGRATULATIONS to all of the scholarship recipients and best wishes for a successful school year!

Christmas in

JULY



Bringing tidings of comfort and joy to Veterans at the Richmond VA Medical Center. Thank you to the Veterans and staff for having us!



PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter FY's 2027 & 2028 Board of Directors

Upon official certification of the ballot tabulation process, the following certified members of the PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter have been duly elected to serve as your Board of Directors for fiscal years 2027 & 2028:

Ms. Takeyla S. Adams

Mr. Matthew L. Cole

Mr. Preston A. Curry

Mr. Jeffrey A. Dolezal

Mr. Richard F. Goebel

Mr. Mark Hartney

Mr. Johnny R. Holland

Mr. George J. Holscher

Ms. Ronda M. Jones

Ms. Amy L. McKee

Our new Directors will be sworn-in during the Board of Directors meeting on September 2nd, and will officially take office at the start of the new fiscal year on October 1st.

We look forward to our new leadership team carrying us forward, strengthening our mission and making a difference in the lives of each of our members.



SUMMER BASEBALL



The Fredericksburg Nationals and the Wilson Warbirds welcomed the PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter onto the field with select chapter members throwing out the ceremonial first pitch at each game!



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NVWG SEND-OFF BANQUET

A special “THANK YOU” to Mr. James Howard and the team at Veterans & Athletes United for their support of the PVA Mid-Atlantic athletes who attended the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.



FIND US ON
 YouTube

@PVA MidAtlantic



VETS ON A ROLL

BIG NEWS The PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter now has a YouTube Channel! Subscribe to learn more about the chapter and chapter members through interviews and in-depth storytelling. Follow along with "Vets on a Roll" as we tell the amazing stories of PVA Mid-Atlantic Members.

“THIS IS MY FAMILY HERE, AND WE ALL TALK TRASH, SO IT’S JUST A GOOD GAME. ON THE COURT WE’RE TALKING TRASH, BUT AFTER WE ROLL OFF, WE LAUGH AND JOKE.”

JOHNNY HOLLAND - MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER V.P.



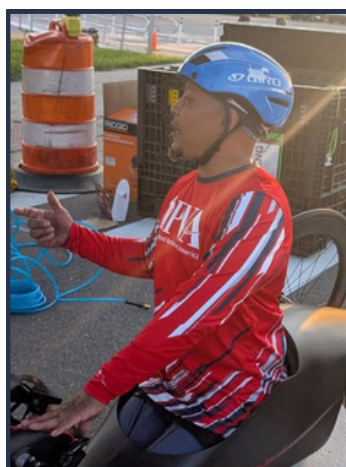
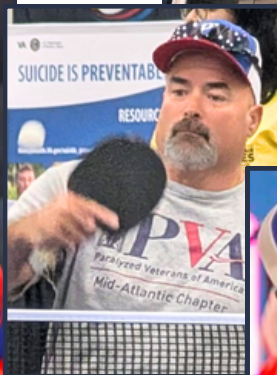
READ THE ARTICLE

“Quadzilla” returns to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games; still talking smack in his 34th year at the games.



NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES





KID'S DAY IS THE BEST DAY

Athletes introduced kids to adaptive sports at the 45th National Veterans Wheelchair Games Kid's Day. This is what community and sports are all about: uplifting our next generation!



LEARN WHAT KID'S
DAY IS ALL ABOUT



Congratulations to PVA
Mid-Atlantic Members

JESSE LIND

AND

FREDDIE SMITH

They are on the official World Cup Roster for the USA Wheelhawks wheelchair rugby team. The team is headed to Australia in October to compete against teams from around the world!



NATIONAL VETERANS
**WHEELCHAIR
GAMES**

CO-PRESENTED BY

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



2027
JULY 14-19
ORLANDO, FL



WheelchairGames.org
#WheelchairGames





Ekso Indego® Gets Veterans Walking Again

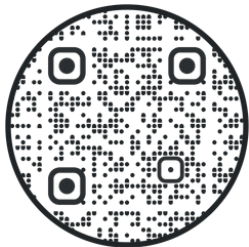
Eligible veterans can receive an Ekso Indego exoskeleton at NO COST!



Ekso Indego Personal

What is Ekso Indego?

Ekso Indego is an FDA-cleared, powered exoskeleton worn around the waist and legs that enables individuals paralyzed from spinal cord injuries (level T3-L5)* to stand and walk, offering a new level of independence.



Scan with your phone for more information on how you could receive your own Ekso Indego Personal.

Getting Veterans with SCI Back on Their Feet

A recently revised VA policy allows Ekso Indego to be issued to qualified veterans at no cost.**

- Walk at home and in your community
- Improve your cardio & bone density

Enjoy eye-level conversations again



Contact us to find out if you are eligible to receive an Ekso Indego at NO COST!

An evaluation by your provider at a SCI/D center is required to determine eligibility for use of the Ekso Indego Personal device

* For full indications for use, visit: www.eksobionics.com/indications-for-use/

** A screening process through the VA is required to determine eligibility for use of the Ekso Indego Personal device



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Charlotte Motor Speedway...
with a heartwarming stop at the
Salisbury VA Medical Center!



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday, June 12, 2026

PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter Members gathered in Hopewell, VA to thank community partners, catch up on chapter news, and kick off nominations for the Board of Directors election.

The meeting was followed by a luncheon with the delicious food provided by Hopewell American Legion Post 146.



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT **AT THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Thank you to CoStar for partnering with the PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter to support our Veterans. Your passion in supporting our mission and dedication to our Veteran members is invaluable!

ONWARD MEDICAL

AJ Walker, ARC^{EX} User,
US Navy Veteran

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ARC^{EX}® is the first FDA-cleared, non-invasive spinal cord stimulation therapy designed to improve hand strength and sensation in people with chronic, incomplete cervical spinal cord injury (SCI).

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The ARC^{EX} System is intended to deliver programmed transcutaneous electrical spinal cord stimulation in conjunction with functional task practice in the clinic and with take-home exercises in the home to improve hand sensation and strength in individuals between 18 and 75 years old that present with a chronic, non-progressive neurological deficit resulting from an incomplete spinal cord injury (C2-C8 inclusive).

The ARC^{EX} System is intended to be operated in medical centers by Rehabilitation Professionals and at home by Patients and Persons Providing Assistance to the Patient as needed.

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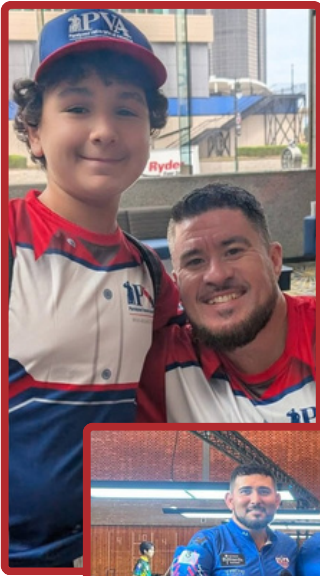
ARC^{EX}

onwd.com





Out and About Mid-Atlantic Style



VETERANS SAFE TRAVEL ACT



Hello PVA Mid -Atlantic Chapter Members, I hope you are well and are enjoying the summer. I would like to discuss a recent law that could offer many of you some assistance with flying. January 4th, 2025 The Veterans Expedited TSA Screening Safe Travel Act was signed into law. This law allows certain veterans with severe service-connected disabilities to receive TSA PreCheck enrollment at no cost.

There are minimum requirements for eligibility under the new law:

1. Veterans must be enrolled in the VA healthcare system
2. The veteran must have a service-connected disability that results in the loss or loss of use of a limb, paralysis or partial paralysis, or permanent blindness
3. The veteran requires the use of a wheelchair, prosthetic limb, or other mobility assistive device because of that service-connected disability.

The VA sent out letters in June to potentially eligible veterans. The veteran will need a copy of the VA letter in order to complete the enrollment process. If you would like to use this benefit, visit <https://www.tsa.gov/vets-safe>. There you will find instructions on completing the enrollment process.

If you have not received a letter and feel you might be entitled to this program, please contact your nearest PVA National Service Officer. The PVA NSO can review your VA folder to determine if a letter is of record.

The VA letter should also be available to you through your VA.gov account.

1. Sign into your VA.gov account
2. Go to Benefit Letter and Documentation section
3. Select the TSA PreCheck Application Fee Waiver Letter
4. Download the Application Fee Waiver

MARK ANTONITIS

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER
EAST-CENTRAL AREA MANAGER



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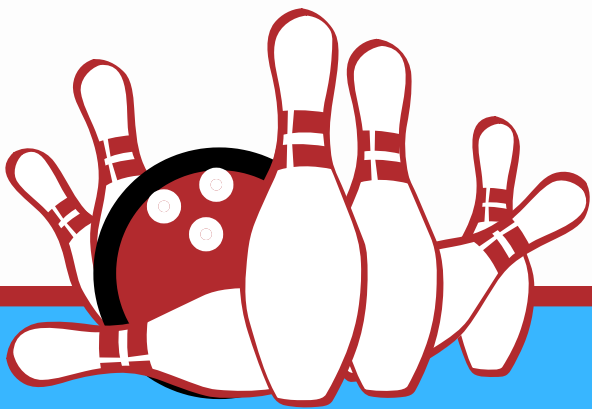
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10th ANNUAL PVA MID-ATLANTIC INVITATIONAL

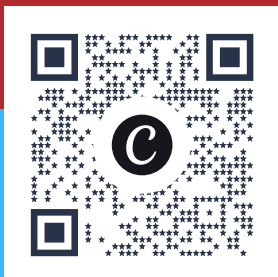
SANCTIONED BY THE AWBA

September 11-13, 2026

The PVA Mid-Atlantic Chapter is doing it up big for the
10th Annual PVA Mid-Atlantic Invitational Bowling Tournament.

REGISTER NOW!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 1



SCAN TO REGISTER