



MINNESOTA PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

Northern *highlights*

May 2009

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To the brave soldiers who have flown home...
and the ones who still bless us with your presence.
Thank You! You will Never be forgotten.
Memorial Day – May 25th, 2009

Continuing to Serve

Minnesota Paralyzed
Veterans of America
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SCI-238
Minneapolis, MN 55417

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7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

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612-725-2263

or

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The Minnesota Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America is a non-profit organization. Our funding is primarily received from donations. The Paralyzed Veterans of America is the name of our parent organization, and is chartered by the Congress of the United States of America. All members of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, have sustained a spinal injury or disease. If you have any questions, or you would like to make a donation to our organization, please write to the address or call the numbers listed on this page

Any and all articles that appear in this newsletter, is the opinion of the author of said article, and not necessarily those of its members, Board of Directors, or that of this organization. Any advertising that appears in this newsletter, is paid for by the business or organization that placed the advertisement. The Minnesota Paralyzed Veterans of America, by printing said advertisements, does not endorse and shall not be held liable for any claims of any kind against said business or organization.

The Minnesota Paralyzed Veterans of America's newsletter will be published six times per year. The editor and/or assistant may edit all articles for content, grammar, clarity and punctuation.

— Richard F. Jost, Editor.

President's Report – Charlie Wittwer

My lovely bride and I returned from Florida on March 12th only to find a pipe had wore out and to make a long story short; we are staying in a Hotel in Duluth, Minnesota while we are waiting for our house to be rebuilt. But all in all everything is going fairly smooth.

As you read this newsletter, Mother's Day and the Minnesota fishing opener will both have come and gone. I hope all the Mothers had a wonderful day and for those of you that went fishing, caught the big one.

The Minnesota PVA Chapter celebrated PVA Awareness Week from April 13th to the 17th. On Tuesday April 14th, we hosted a luncheon for the SCI patients and staff to recognize that we are all in one building now and even on the same floor. On Tuesday April 15th, a small group from the ALS Organization toured the SCI Center which was hosted by the National Service Office staff (Jason Stephenson, Senior Benefits Advocate, Tami Andersen, Senior National Service Officer and Elaine Dresen, Senior Secretary, and they provided a pizza lunch for the group. On Thursday April 16th, Tom Fjerstad hosted a "meet and greet" at the State Veterans Building for the staff there to introduce the Minnesota Paralyzed Veterans of America and that the MNPVA Chapter now has an office in the lower level at the Veterans Building.

I was invited back to St. Louis, Missouri as part of the "show and tell show"; this is where I went last year to be honored as one of the 12 athletes on the Cheerios boxes. This year we were there to greet the new 12 athletes that will be featured on the Cheerios boxes.

In June 2009, Tom Fjerstad, Todd Kemery and I will be going to Kansas City, Missouri to participate in an ADA Symposium and then to be ADA certified.

In closing, I would like to congratulate Mr. Tom Fjerstad for his 5,000 hours of volunteer hour award he received in May from the Paralyzed Veterans of America. It was truly an honor to present the award to Tom.

Thank you everyone and remember to be kind!!

Membership Report – Dave Hallis / Dianna Way

Our current membership is at 330 with the breakdown as follows:

Service Connected = 151

Non Service Connected = 179

Please keep in mind to enlist new members when you are out in the community because we would really like to see our membership increase. Veterans with a spinal cord injury or spinal cord disease and with an honorable discharge or retired from the military are eligible for membership into our chapter.

I would like to thank everyone that attended the membership meeting at Jimmy's Pour House on Thursday May 7, 2009. There were 20 members and guests in attendance and everyone had a great time. Congratulations to Mary Rahn on winning the \$50.00 prize drawing. We are already in the process of scheduling the next membership meeting to be held in the Southern part of Minnesota.

MNPVA welcomes the following new members: Rex Bowman, Woodrow Garrett, Joseph Merkle and Phillip Schmitz. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events to meet many other MNPVA members. **WELCOME!!**

The office was notified that MNPVA member Winton Hendrickson and Leo Mollen have passed away. Winton was a very active member in the MNPVA Chapter including being on the Board of Directors. The chapter extends its deepest sympathies to both families and friends during their time of sorrow.

REMINDER!! Please mark your calendar for the MNPVA annual picnic on Friday June 26th. The picnic will be held on the Minneapolis VA Medical Center grounds same place as last year which is behind the building. We will start serving food at 11:30 a.m. We look forward to seeing you at the picnic.



ATTENTION!!!!

The Minnesota PVA Chapter office will be closed starting Saturday July 11, 2009 through Sunday July 19, 2009. Dianna and Ric will be taking vacation this week. We will be back on Monday July 20, 2009 for normal business hours starting at 8:00 a.m.

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor – Diane Acord

Hello from the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor!

April 1st marked the one year anniversary of the Vocational Rehabilitation office in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It has been a busy year but a good year. On December 22, 2008 the Vocational Rehabilitation office moved from its temporary location at the Regional Service Office in the Henry Whipple Building to its permanent office in the new Spinal Cord Injury and Disorder Center at the Minneapolis VA Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

For the Minnesota office first year:

- Minnesota office has gone from 0 veterans looking or thinking about employment to currently 97 veterans looking or thinking about employment in 10 states.
- Six veterans are now employed full-time.
- Five veterans are volunteering-which they chose to do.
- Three veterans have received full-ride scholarships for mainframe computer degrees-a joint effort between Marist College in New York and IBM.
- Six other veterans are in training for various occupations.
- Five veterans have interviewed for a new government services division with Kroll Corporation and will be starting in the next few weeks.
- One veteran has been asked to interview with IBM for a computer security position.
- The Minnesota Vocational Rehabilitation office covers the states of Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Another exciting program starting in the next few weeks will be an ACT Vocational Group. A vocational psychologist and I are teaming together to offer a class that will meet once a week for 6 weeks in the new SCI Center at the Minneapolis VA hospital. The class will give you the tools you will need to succeed in employment and in daily life. ACT stands for acceptance and commitment and will be a new and innovative way to look at interviewing, employment and people. The class will be fun, interactive and hopefully you will find it helpful. If you would like to be part of the group, please call or email me at the phone number and email address listed below; we would love to have you join us! All are welcome and there is no charge.

If you are interested in employment, thinking about employment or just wondering if you would be able to go to work, please come see me. I can assist you with resumes, interviewing, contacting employers, interest testing, accommodations for work, or just discussing the possibility of work or training; what ever it is that you need or have questions about. There are jobs, but in order to land one, you need to be prepared. I can help. Call me at 612-629-7021 or email me at dianea@pva.org Stop by the next time you are at the hospital...my door is always open!

Executive Director's Report – Richard Jost

What an exiting time to be a part of the MNPVA, the SCI Center is open, the dayroom, the fitness center, the pool, the outside exercise court, the walking path and it is all being used by Veterans.

The Minnesota PVA Chapter has a new van to assist its membership in getting them to their appointments when no other method of transportation is available. For more information about this new service we are offering to you the members, please call the MNPVA office at 612-725-2263 or 1-800-663-6782.

The Minnesota PVA has 5 offices up and running in Minnesota. We have a Government Relations office at the Veterans Building located in the lower level at the State Capital. There is also a Viet Nam Memorial and a recently dedicated WWII Memorial located on the grounds at the State Capital. The PVA Service office is located in the Federal Building on the main floor where all the claims are processed. PVA also has 3 offices in the new SCI Center – MNPVA Chapter office, Senior Benefits Advocate office and the Vocational Rehabilitation office. One of the things that MNPVA has developed over the years is a great working relationship with our VA hospital leaders and staff. Dianna and I are seeing many more Veterans now that we are located in the SCI Center

I have been asked to represent the MNPVA Chapter on the planning committee for the Minneapolis VA Medical Center for the month of October for the Disability Awareness month to plan activities within the VA Medical Center.

National Service Officer's Report – Tami Andersen

Survivor's Benefits for Widows of Veterans that passed from ALS

What are the benefits that a widow/widower can receive?

During an already difficult time for a widow/widower when their spouse passes away so quickly from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), there is some comfort to know that there are benefits from the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) to assist them. When the primary or contributory reason for death is a service connected disability or disease; the widow/widower may be eligible for the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation or DIC for short, benefit. The DIC benefit is a monthly monetary award that is paid the first of every month for the previous month of benefit. Currently that amount is \$1,154.00; with an additional monetary benefit for dependents and/or the need for aid and attendance.

Two other benefits are the burial and plot benefits. The VA currently will pay \$2,000.00 to a widow/widower as a burial benefit and \$300.00 as a plot allowance benefit.

What paperwork is needed to submit a claim for DIC and Burial/Plot Benefits?

A VA form 21-534 "Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and Accrued Benefits by a Surviving Spouse or Child" will need to be completed. Along with the VA form 21-534; a certified copy of the veteran's DD214 (discharge document), a copy of the death certificate of the veteran stating the primary and contributory reasons for death, and a copy of the marriage certificate will need to be enclosed.

A VA form 21-530 "Application for Burial Benefits" will need to be completed; along with the VA form 21-530; an itemized paid statement/invoice from the funeral home and a statement/invoice for the plot cost will need to be enclosed.

What is the time frame for filing a claim?

The law for service connection of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) became effective September 23, 2008. Therefore, if a veteran passed away from ALS before September 23, 2008, the effective date is September 23, 2008. Otherwise, when a surviving spouse submits a claim within one year of veteran's death; the claim will be effective the date of death. If the claim is submitted after the one year period of date of death, the claim will be effective the date of claim.

How to get started?

Contact your local Paralyzed Veteran's of America National Service Officer (NSO) to set up a meeting to complete the paperwork. The NSO will need to have a VA form 21-22, "Appointment of Veterans Service Organization as Claimant's Representative" completed by the surviving spouse in order to submit and monitor the claim on your behalf. Once the claim has been submitted, the NSO will track it through the VA process to be sure it gets completed in a timely manner and is accurate. Contact your NSO at 612-970-5988 or 1-800-795-3609 with any questions throughout and after completion of the claim.

Minnesota NVWG Team

The Minnesota PVA Chapter is sending the following athletes to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games held in Spokane, Washington from July 13th to 18th, 2009

The Athletes

John Christensen	Hank Ebert	Jesse Gonzales
Mike Hancock	Dale Haugen	Dave Hopkins
Bob Huber	Jerry Klemm	Todd Kemery
Joe Krog	Shawn Shoen	Taum Ulrich
Ken Walsh	Eric Webster	Charlie Wittwer

The Coaches

Kory Badertscher	Becky Wittig	Pat Kahler
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Volunteer

Cara Kahler

The Minnesot PVA Chapter wishes the athletes good luck and hope you will snare a lot of medals.

Government Relations Director's Report - Thomas R. Fjerstad, PRP

The chapter's new office space at the State Capital is basically complete. PVA Awareness Week gave us an opportunity to make visible our new presence on the capital grounds. We held a meet and greet luncheon on Thursday April 16th and for a first time event at this location it was fairly well attended. The 5th floor of the Veterans Building is a great location for gatherings, we liked it so much we will be holding our next chapter Board of Directors meeting there on May 19th. If you would like to check out our new digs just give me a call, I would be happy to give you a tour.

The United Veterans Legislative Counsel met on May 6th, I was in attendance and would like to pass on to the PVA membership to mark your calendars. On June 13th we will have a special opportunity to honor, respect and remember those members of our community who served in the armed forces during the Vietnam era. Minnesota Honors Vietnam Era Veterans is a daylong event featuring guest speakers, KIA roll call, unit reunions, displays, a parade of colors, music, food and more. A complete list of the day's events can be found at mnhonorsvietnamvets.org.

Listed below are a couple of bills I am currently following that would impact our membership.

HF 541 now included in Tax Omnibus Finance Bill – HF2323

Allows the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran to continue to qualify for the residential homestead market value exclusion for five years after the death of the veteran

HF 671 now included in Environment and Natural Resources Omnibus Finance Bill – HF2123

This provision allows free entrance to state parks to any veteran with a total and permanent service-connected disability. Currently, this is available to Minnesota residents only.

HF 1356 now included in the Transportation Omnibus Finance Bill – HF1309

Amends MnDOT's transit service implementation plan to include provision of free public transit for disabled veterans. Additionally, public transit providers receiving aid from MnDOT are to provide free public transit for disabled veterans.

I am certain that by the time this newsletter actually lands in your hands I will have the final disposition of these bills. Feel free to give me a call or wait for an update in the next newsletter.

I attended a Minnesota Swarm game at the Excel Center on April 18th and became aware of an issue with the facilities seating. I had attempted to purchase season tickets last year and was told that mid-field seats were not available. I assumed this meant that the seats were already sold. It turns out that the accessible mid-field seating on one side has been turned into an area for the media and photographers and an owners suite on the other side. I will be following up on this and will keep you posted as we progress. If you have attended any events at the Excel Center please contact me as I would like to hear about your experience acquiring accessible seating.

The National ADA Symposium will be held June 8-10 in Kansas City MO. This will be the first time the chapter has sent representatives to this symposium. It is reported to be the most comprehensive conference available on the Americans with Disabilities Act and related disability laws. I will be in attendance along with chapter President Charlie Wittwer and Sports Director Todd Kemery. We registered specifically for the ADA Coordinators' Program which is designed to meet the specific needs of ADA Coordinators of state and local governments, educational institutions, and other entities. Completion of the ADA Coordinators' Program will help one to better understand the role of an ADA Coordinator, understand the philosophy of full inclusion and the main concepts of the ADA as a civil rights law, be familiar with ADA regulations and guidelines, know how to coordinate and conduct a self-evaluation and transition plans, know how to establish on-going assessment and evaluation procedures, and acquire a working knowledge of ADA resources. Look for our report in the next newsletter.

Spiritual Thoughts with Leo Dondlinger

John 3:20 For everyone that doeth evil, hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. Good deeds come from the Cross of Christ. He will bless them. Christ is the light of the World. All of us need light just like plants need light to live. Let Christ bless you as you bless the poor in these hard times.

JUNE 2009

Schedule of Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

FLAG DAY

FATHERS DAY

D DAY

MNPVA
ANNUAL PICNIC

MAY 2009							JULY 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
31							29	30	31				

Birthdays

Birthstone: Pearl
Flower: Rose

- | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 3 Robert J. Murphy | 9 Edward G. Huppler | 17 Paul K. Olson | 25 Eugene N. Buckley |
| 4 Edward J. Turk | Dennis J. Main | 19 James W. Hadden | 26 Don A. Bublitz |
| 5 Donna J. Kaufmann | 11 Oliver Andren | 20 Nikki J. Smith | Joey Krog |
| William G. Ostertdyk | Thomas J. Larson | 22 Dennis Dahlien | 27 Jan Denfield |
| 6 Donald C. Matthews | 14 Janice C. Breth | Richard G. Hubers | 29 Jeffrey S. McSorley |
| 8 Shawn L. Shoen | John D. Wabbe | Sandy M. Nickelson | 30 Rudolph Melina |

2 Bingo Veteran's Home – 7:00 p.m.

3 UVLC Meeting – 9:30 a.m.

6 D Day

9 Fishing from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Mille Lacs in Isle, Minnesota at Scenic Bay Resort; please call the office if you plan on attending so we will have enough food for everyone

14 Flag Day

16 BOD Meeting

21 Fathers Day

23 Fishing from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Mille Lacs Lake in Isle, Minnesota at Scenic Bay Resort; please call the office if you plan on attending so we have enough food for everyone

26 MNPVA annual picnic at the Minneapolis VA Medical center, behind the building, we will start serving food at 11:30 a.m.

Hospital Visitation:

Monday through Friday

Bowling South:

Thursday mornings starting at -11:00 a.m. at the Eden Prairie Bowling Lanes in Eden Prairie, Minnesota

Bowling North:

Thursday afternoons starting at 2:00 p.m. at Bowlers Advantage/Bunkie's Bar & Grill Bowling Lanes in Chisago, Minnesota

Please call the MNPVA office if you plan on attending any of the above activities at 612-725-2263 or 1-800-663-6782 or via email at mnppva@qwest.net

JULY 2009

Schedule of Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

OFFICE CLOSED 4TH OF JULY

OBSERVED

INDEPENDENCE DAY

National Veterans Wheelchair Games – Spokane, Washington

ARMISTICE DAY

1 UVLC Meeting – 9:30 a.m.

2-3 4th of July Holiday Observed – Office Closed

4 Independence Day – 4th of July

7 Bingo Vets Home – 7:00 p.m.

13-18 National Veterans Wheelchair Games – Spokane, Washington

13-18 Office Closed

21 BOD Meeting

27 Armistice Day

28 Fishing from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Mille Lacs Lake in Isle, Minnesota at Scenic Bay Resort; please call the office if you plan on attending so we have enough food for everyone

Hospital Visitation:

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Please call the MNPVA office if you plan on attending any of the above activities at 612-725-2263 or 1-800-663-6782 or via email at mnppva@qwest.net

Birthdays

Birthstone: Ruby
Flower: Larkspur

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Charles D. Frafjord | William M. Forlong | Willis W. Johnson | 28 Scott T. Buchan |
| 2 Curtis L. Schultz | Glen D. Mittelsteadt | 24 Robert S. Armstrong | 29 Jack Maypark |
| 7 Thomas B. Bolland | 20 Thomas J. Moran | John T. Longley | 30 Howard Hanson |
| 11 David Scarset | 21 Charles J. Evancevich | 25 Robert J. Mickelson | 31 John G. Schnieder |
| 12 Dean A. Buresh | 22 Henry Koetje | William J. Schiebler | Justin E. Theien |
| Arnold E. Johnson | Daniel J. McCoy | Gary E. Yanta | |
| 16 Raymond H. Sandstrom | 23 Danny L. Bravo | 27 Earnest B. Erickson | |
| 17 Gerald C. Dunlap | Robert L. Danzl | David J. Hallis | |

IT'S PICNIC TIME!!

Who: All MNPVA Members and their guests
What: Annual Summer Picnic
When: **Friday June 26, 2009**
Where: Minneapolis VA Medical Center –
Behind the Building
(same place as last year)
Time: **11:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**
Location: Minneapolis VA Medical Center
1 Veterans Drive
Minneapolis, MN



We will start serving food at 11:30 a.m.

This picnic is for you the members and guests and we really would like to see all of you there. This is a great opportunity to visit with old friends and make new ones. We especially welcome our new members to join us and meet other MNPVA members.

NOTE!!! Please call the MNPVA office at 612-725-2263 or 1-800-663-6782 or via email at mnnpva@qwest.net at your earliest convenience if you will be attending the picnic so we will know how much food to order. The deadline to call in to reserve a spot for you at the picnic is June 12, 2009.

FOOD! GAMES! PRIZES!

COME ONE!! COME ALL!!

Fabulous Ford Mini-van for Sale:

Hardly Used, Very Low Mileage with Lift!

This Steel Blue Ford Freestar SE van has under 10,000 miles and comes with all the standard equipment: V6, FWD, Auto, AC, PS, Power Locks, Tilt, cruise, ABS, Keyless Entry & Roof Rack. In addition, it has a Power Drivers Seat, AM/FM/cassette /disc, and Moon Roof and Remote Start.

The lift is a Bruno wheelchair/scooter lift installed in the rear, 250# capacity & has easy operation.

If you are looking for a practically brand new van in excellent condition with a wheelchair lift, this will be perfect! Only \$11,500. Call today 651-351-7448.

Homes and Vehicles Sale Ads

If you are a member of the Minnesota PVA Chapter and you are trying to sell your home or vehicle, you may advertise it in this newsletter with no photos for free. If however, you want photos to be included with your ad, then you will be charged for the ad.

Please call the MNPVA office at 612-725-2263 or 1-800-663-6782 for more information or if you have any questions. We will also let you know at that time when our next newsletter will be published. Also, ads must be sent via email to mnnpva@qwest.net or if you don't have access to a computer then please write the information you want on the ad and mail it to the office at the following address:
Minnesota PVA Chapter
1 Veterans Drive, SCI-238
Minneapolis, MN 55417



PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

An individual is eligible for membership by meeting the following criteria: (1) is a citizen of the United States; (2) was regularly enlisted, inducted, or commissioned, and was accepted for or on active duty, in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard of the United States or an ally of the United States; (3A) was separated from the service in the Armed Forces under conditions other than dishonorable; or (3B) is on active duty or must continue to serve after the cessation of hostilities; and (4) has suffered a spinal cord injury or disease (such as MS, ALS), whether or not service connected in origin. Membership is free. Complete and mail the application to: PVA Membership Department, 801 18th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006 or to the chapter of choice.

800-424-8200 • www.pva.org

Chapter Name: **Minnesota PVA Chapter**

First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____ Social Security Number: _____
month date year

☐ Male ☐ Female

Are you a United States citizen? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

Email: _____

VETERAN STATUS INFORMATION

DATE(S) OF MILITARY SERVICE		TYPE OF SEPARATION	BRANCH OF SERVICE
Start Date month/date/year	End Date month/date/year	Discharge (D) or Retirement (R)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> D or <input type="checkbox"/> R	<input type="checkbox"/> Army <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force <input type="checkbox"/> Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Corps <input type="checkbox"/> Coast Guard
		<input type="checkbox"/> D or <input type="checkbox"/> R	<input type="checkbox"/> Army <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force <input type="checkbox"/> Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Corps <input type="checkbox"/> Coast Guard

Have you ever been discharged under conditions that are less than honorable? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Is your spinal cord injury or spinal cord disease service connected? ☐ Yes ☐ No

DISABILITY CLASSIFICATION

SPINAL CORD INJURY

(Complete ONLY if you have a traumatic spinal cord injury)

Date of Injury: _____ / _____ / _____

Injury Level: ☐ C1-C08 Cervical ☐ T01-T12 Thoracic
☐ L01-L05 Lumbar ☐ S01-S05 Sacral

Cause of SCI:

- ☐ Vehicular (auto, motorcycle, aircraft, bicycle, etc.)
- ☐ Violence (gunshot, stabbing, explosion, etc.)
- ☐ Pedestrian (hit by car, etc.)
- ☐ Sport or recreation (swimming, diving, etc.)
- ☐ Flying or falling object
- ☐ Medical-surgical complications
- ☐ Other traumatic injury _____
- ☐ Unknown

SPINAL CORD DISEASE

(Complete ONLY if you have non-traumatic spinal cord disease)

Date of diagnosis/onset of condition:

_____ / _____ / _____

Specific disease:

- ☐ Multiple Sclerosis
- ☐ Poliomyelitis
- ☐ Amyotrophic diseases (lateral sclerosis, transverse myelitis)
- ☐ Syringomyelia
- ☐ Other (specify) _____

LEVEL OF FUNCTION

Indicate your level of function:

☐ Paraplegia ☐ Quadriplegia ☐ Hemiplegia ☐ No paralysis at this time

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please check the appropriate box or fill in the blank of each of the categorical that best describes your present status. This important information enables the PVA to compile data for the effective implementation and support of our programs.

EDUCATION *(highest level)*

- ☐ Less than high school graduate
- ☐ High school graduate/GED
- ☐ Some college or trade school
- ☐ Associate's degree
- ☐ Bachelor's degree
- ☐ Attended graduate school
- ☐ Graduate degree
- ☐ Other _____

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS

- ☐ Employed full time
- ☐ Employed part time
- ☐ Self-employed
- ☐ Unemployed
- ☐ Unemployed due to disability
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Other _____

MARITAL STATUS

- ☐ Divorced
- ☐ Married
- ☐ Never Married
- ☐ Separated
- ☐ Widowed

RACE/ETHNICITY

- ☐ Asian or Pacific Islander
- ☐ Black, not Hispanic/Latino origin
- ☐ Hispanic/Latino
- ☐ Native American or Alaskan Native
- ☐ White, not Hispanic/Latino origin
- ☐ Other _____

TYPE OF RESIDENCE

- ☐ Apartment
- ☐ Assisted living facility
- ☐ Single-family home/condominium
- ☐ State/veterans retirement home
- ☐ Nursing home
- ☐ VA hospital
- ☐ VA nursing home
- ☐ Other _____

SOURCE(S) OF INCOME

(check all that apply)

- ☐ Employment
- ☐ Gifts/Other
- ☐ Private pension
- ☐ Social Security
- ☐ VA compensation
- ☐ VA pension
- ☐ Worker's compensation

NEXT OF KIN INFORMATION

Relationship: _____

Name: _____

☐ Same as member address on front of form

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION

(someone other than next of kin)

Relationship: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

The Veterans Benefits Department advocates for quality health care for our members and can assist you to obtain the appropriate benefits available as a result of your military service. Is PVA presently your benefits representative? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, I have no objection and hereby permit PVA Service Officers to provide information to the PVA National Membership Department that pertains to my qualifications for membership.

I declare that I have read and meet the qualifications. I understand that my membership could be revoked if any information provided is inaccurate.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Office Use Only

Date Received: _____

Member ID#: _____

Processed Date: _____



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
Spokane VAMC
Carla Lippert
(509) 434-7508,
carla.lippert@va.gov

or visit
www.wheelchairgames.va.gov

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1 Veterans Dr. SC1-238
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417

Membership Change of Address Form

First Name: _____ MI: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ E-mail: _____

Birth Date: ____ / ____ / ____ Membership ID Number _____