

paraplegia news

Paralyzed Veterans of America

July 1986

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THE PARAPLEGIA NEWS

Vol. 1

Veterans Hospital Bronx 63, N. Y. July 1946

No. 1

What We Hope To Accomplish By Publication Of This Paper

For the patients we hope that it will be a medium for the exchange of ideas in helping each other; that it will furnish Occupational Therapy by the manual work involved and prevocational training as Medical Therapy and satisfaction in occupational interests.

For the doctors, we present a challenge to their skill in continuing good medical care from egg sandwiches to streptomycin and a sustained interest in continuing to contribute articles to the paper.

For others who contribute to our welfare, we anticipate entertainment which will retain its high standard of recent weeks.

It will be appreciated if persons who are approached by a correspondent of this paper will give the requested information as fully as possible.

We are conditioned to listening to cliches but we shall not publish any. Please, make your replies for publication.

To The Paraplegics
throughout The Country

This paper is published with the earnest desire that it will become a sounding board for the expression

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Contributions Made This Paper Possible

We wish to use this means to thank the anonymous persons who through the medium of the Red Cross furnished the type, press and paper used in the publication of this paper. Without their contributions the Paraplegia News would have remained in the realm of wishful thinking.

Our sincere appreciation is rendered to the ladies of the Dorothy Schlessinger Memorial for their contribution of paper and type gauges.

We are duly grateful for the wholehearted cooperation which we have received from all departments of the hospital.

Miss Robinson, former field director of the A.R.C. at this facility worked long and hard to obtain the necessary equipment and therefore deserves the highest praise.

TIME MARKS TIME

by Ray Fenwick

We never change from day to day,

Things are the same as when you went away,

Rock is still bold, Carstaedt's still loud,

There's still lots of money in that card playing crowd.

The doors are still closed and, as you know,

The nurses still knock and the patients say "No!"

The topic of food is rated as sad,

But if you're hungry, it's not so bad.

Tony's still thin, Price is still fat,

And Muzelak - well, we won't go into that.

The halls are still noisy and cluttered with things,

Nobody answers when the telephone rings.

The movies are so hot you feel like fainting,

And there is Fenwick's unfinished painting.

The nurses still have to beat off the hounds,

The doctors still make the morning rounds.

And when you come back,
You'll walk in and say,
It all seems the same -- was I really away?

Wanted--Reporters, Printers, Mailers

The printing of this newspaper has been accomplished by two paraplegia patients, Carmine Fanelli, Byron Deysher, and two ambulatory patients, Joe Szczepanski,
Continued on Page Two

TRAYS UP

by
Constance Shins



Thank you, Mr. Price, for asking the dietitians to write an article about the diets of our 3D patients. Notice how we did not even show any maidenly hesitancy when you asked for a few written words for the paper?

In our dietary education we have been trained very thoroughly in the proven truth that good food attractively served, will aid in mental and physical recovery of the patient. That is our standard, that is what we strive for, and through your cooperation and constructive comments we can steadily improve.

Let me inform you all, that you, as patients, are on high protein diets. What does that mean? It means that if you eat all the food sent you on the tray your protein intake is 158 grams. Protein is the food substance necessary to build and maintain tissue and provide energy. In order to replace the protein lost through decubitus ulcers, the protein intake must be very high. Normal protein intake is 70 grams per day. This would prove most inadequate for you, since tests have shown that much protein is lost in a day in some instances.

There are other means of building up protein intake, such as the medicinal substance called paraminine. Taken four times a day, this adds 60 grams of protein to your intake. Although unpleasant to take, it is beneficial and the momentarily bitter taste can be lessened by addition of tomato juice or a piece of hard candy. Always keep in mind, protein rebuilds tissue; overcome decubitus ulcers.

Amigen, another medicinal aid contains this tissue building substance. Four ounces, which is a very small amount, taken three times a day yields 78 grams protein. This is definitely not as palatable as a chocolate sundae. However very few medicines are pleasing. Consider its benefits and its faults seem minor.

You have said that these bitter tasting medicines spoil your appetites for your food. Believe us, this may be true for the first few days. But as your system becomes accus-

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PVA: 40 years in review



For the past 40 years, *Paraplegia News* has faithfully chronicled the history of the organization first called Paralyzed Veterans Associations of America and now known as Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Following are highlights, as reported in *PN*, of each of PVA's 39 annual conventions along with excerpts (in italics) from columns written for the magazine by the organization's

presidents. (Every president who wrote a column is quoted; some apparently had no words of wisdom to share — through *PN* — with the membership. All presidents are pictured in the year they were elected.)

If you happened to be around way back when and remember things a little differently, please keep in mind that the following is history *à la Paraplegia News*.

The first meeting of the Paralyzed Veterans Associations of America was held in the Vaughan Unit of the Hines VA Hospital. Delegates from seven of the chapters met on February 7, 1947, to organize on a national scale.

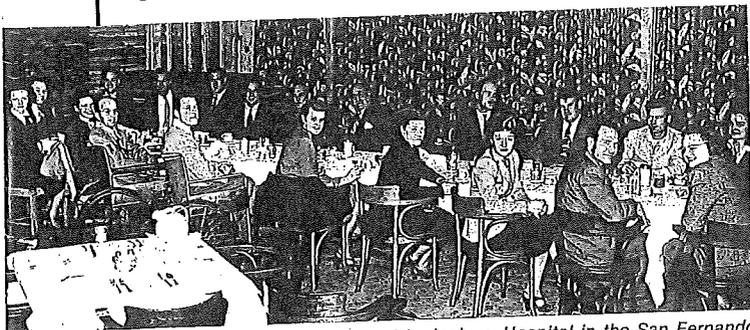
Colonel John N. Andreios, personal representative of General Omar Bradley, opened the meeting with an address of welcome, conveying greetings from General Bradley and the latter's assurance of his cooperation with the endeavors of the organization.

The delegates worked into the night on Friday and Saturday drawing up the articles of incorporation and the bylaws. On Sunday, February 9, the four resolutions were framed.

[Gilford Moss was elected the new organization's national chairman.]

1947 The first national convention of the Paralyzed Veterans Associations of America met at McGuire Veterans Administration Hospital in Richmond, Virginia, on September 26, 1947.

A Committee on National Legislation (Messrs. Schufelt, Moss and Peterson) was formed to inform membership of PVA legislation before Congress and action taken on such legislation.



1947. A group of PVAers from Birmingham Hospital in the San Fernando Valley (California), who also happen to be officers of the Birmingham Disabled American Veterans, meet with the chairman of the board of Union Oil to negotiate for sponsorship of junior college athletics. Photo by McElroy & Fisher Photos.

The offer of the Anchor Hocking Glass Corporation to advertise for funds for the National Research Foundation on their broadcast radio program was accepted.

One third of PVA's receipts were assessed for dues amounting to \$1 per member for the support of printing *PN*.

EPVA, comprising the chapters of St. Albans, Halloran and the Bronx, became affiliated with the national PVA but without voting privileges.

A stand was made by delegate Fred Smead from California that VA hospitals have guaranteed bed space for the domiciliary care of paraplegics.

It was resolved that a Board of Trustees be elected to raise funds for the National Research Foundation to be allocated to the National Research Council for research in paraplegia.

A motion was made and carried that a letter be drafted to General Bradley suggesting that PVA and affiliated chapters be authorized by the VA to handle problems of the veteran paraplegics.

Gilford S. Moss was sole nominee for the national chairmanship and was elected unanimously to succeed himself. Robert Moss of Halloran was unanimously elected vice chairman and secretary. John M. Price was elected to continue as editor of *PN*.



The titles of national chairman and vice chairman were changed to president and vice president. The president was voted a salary of \$50 per month with the provision that he receive an additional sum at the end of the fiscal year to total a monthly salary of \$200.

The Housing Committee was voted a sum of \$500 annually for use in the promotion of legislation.

A resolution was drawn up approving the adoption of an office of coordinator of paraplegics affairs in the VA.

Delegates from nine chapters, including Canada, attended the convention.

[Shortly after the convention, Gil Moss resigned his office to assume leadership of the National Paraplegic Foundation. Robert Moss took over as PVA president.]

The reorganization of the Paraplegia News has been one of my prime concerns since assuming the presidency of our

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national organization. This reorganization may take several months before it is carried to completion.

Firstly, the Paraplegia News must come out every month on schedule if it is to be effective. No one doubts the need for our paper. The editor will work in closer connection with the national office.

The national office will take all the tedious mechanics of the paper away from John Price and leave him to the very important task of being editor.
— Robert Moss, August 1948



I made a trip to Veterans Administration Central Office with Mr. Reiniger, your legislative chairman, to find out how the plans for implementing the housing bill were progressing. While I was there I saw the first check which was paid out under Public Law 702 and was being paid to a paraplegic in Jacksonville, Florida. There seems to be quite a bit of confusion and red tape concerning the processing of basic eligibility. — Bernard E. Shufelt, October 1948.



1948 A highlight of the 2nd national convention, held in Memphis, Tennessee, on September 13-17, 1948, was the change of the organization's name to Paralyzed Veterans of America. A national headquarters was established at 99 Park Ave., New York, New York.



1948. Cookout in South Natick, Massachusetts, given for NEPVA members by Howard Long.

Bernard E. Shufelt was elected national president, Marcus Orr was named the new vice president, and David Reiniger and Gustav Kramer took over as secretary and treasurer, respectively. Robert Moss was appointed executive secretary. David Reiniger was also chosen to serve as chairman of the Legislative Committee; Harold E. Peterson was appointed national housing chairman and Austin Kelly was named chairman of the Sports Committee.

According to then PN editor John Price, "All subjects got a thorough airing, but no time was lost with petty bickering which marked our earlier meetings. There were differences of opinion and some were settled by close votes, but the decision of the vote was the decision of all. Probably for the first time, we have become a national organization in the full sense of the word."

During the period in which I am your president I want to report to you monthly through the medium of the Paraplegia News in order that the entire membership of our organization may know what National Headquarters is doing for paraplegics.

1949 The 3rd national convention was held in New York City from September 7-12, 1949. (Although scheduled to adjourn on the 11th, business necessitated an additional session.) All sessions except for the opening meeting were held at the organization's new national headquarters.

The opening session was addressed (by telephone from Hollywood) by movie producer Stanley Kramer, who was preparing a new film called *The Men* about paraplegic war veterans.

Bernard E. Shufelt was reelected national president, and Harry A. Schweikert Jr. was named vice president. David Reiniger was reelected as secretary, and Robert S. Frost was named treasurer. Robert Moss agreed to continue in



1949. Gil Moss argues a disorderly conduct case in magistrate's court. Photo by Chicago Photographers.

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his position as executive secretary.

In the field of federal legislation, emphasis was placed on the needs of the nonservice-connected paraplegic veterans. Congress would be asked to correct certain inequities in the law, particularly where they concerned quadriplegics. In addition, the individual states and cities would be asked to pass legislation that would be beneficial to paraplegic veterans in their communities.

PVA decided to conduct surveys of its membership to determine the physical, mental and material makeup of the paraplegic veterans throughout the country.

PN made a plaintive plea to readers for funds to accomplish the ambitious program PVA had set for itself.

1950 The 4th convention of the Paralyzed Veterans of America was held at the Parkview Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee, on March 4-6, 1950. A number of major changes took place at this meeting, which took the place of the convention scheduled for September of that year.

Patterson Grissom was elected national president and treasurer, with no salary. Verdell Foard was elected vice president, William Green secretary and Forest Bland legislative director. All other elected positions were eliminated; after the convention, President Grissom appointed Harry A. Schweikert Jr. athletic director.

By majority vote, the national headquarters of PVA was abolished and the position of executive secretary was eliminated. Former president Bernard Shufelt and former executive secretary Robert Moss both waived their salaries, which had not been paid since the last convention.

Robert Moss was reappointed editor of PN and was given a \$4000 budget to publish the magazine, which at that time was an eight-page publication. Lucille Moss was named managing editor; both positions were without salary.

Editor Moss saw the new direction the organization took at the convention as a result of "a strong, sincere desire on the part of the delegates and the chapters they represented to promote basic medical research in the various fields connected with paraplegia."

[Harry Schweikert Jr. noted in his 1971 article on the 25th anniversary of PVA, "Apparently, everyone was so unhappy with the 1950 convention that no minutes were recorded — at least none can be found."]

It was with a great deal of reluctance that I accepted the position of president of the Paralyzed Veterans of America at the recent PVA conference in Memphis. I realize that this next year is going to be a difficult one, financially speaking, if we are to operate within our known income. One of my primary objectives will be to clear ourselves of all debts in the organization.

National Headquarters was dissolved, and with it the position of executive secretary, in the interests of economy. It was not possible to maintain our National Offices and the program as formulated at the last national convention without going further into debt; however, by the strict budgeting of our income, we can still continue the Paraplegia News, continue our nonservice-connected legislative program and be free of debt by the time of the 1951 PVA convention.

— Pat Grissom, May 1950



1951 The 5th National PVA Convention was held June 19-21 in Memphis, Tennessee.

Stan Reese was elected president, Ernest Gendreau vice president and secretary, and Randall Updyke treasurer. Harry A. Schweikert Jr. was reelected athletic director, and Edwin Kircher was named legislative director.

Robert Moss was reappointed editor of PN, which was given five months to become a self-supporting publication. The national president and legislative director, along with all chapters, would begin to send in monthly columns.

Outgoing President Grissom opened the first meeting of the convention by stating, "During the past year the National Office acted as little more than a collection agency for dues..." noting that the only active work had been done by *Paraplegia News* but that the chapters and officials did very little to support that activity.

A Reorganization Committee was active during the convention and would remain in force as a standing committee.



1952 PVA's 6th annual convention, held June 16-19, 1952, in Richmond, Virginia, had fewer delegates in attendance representing fewer chapters than any previous convention. Shades of past internal strife were subtly present but considerably subdued.

William P. Green of the New England Chapter was elected president; Robert Frost of the Eastern Chapter, vice president; John J. Power Jr. of the New England Chapter, secretary; and Harry A. Schweikert Jr. of the Eastern Chapter, treasurer. Robert Frost was named to the newly created position of national job placement chairman.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the very thorough discussion on the VA's domiciliary care program.

PN was voted to be continued as the official organ of the organization and to appear on a monthly basis. National funds in the amount of \$2000 were put aside for this purpose.

It was voted to maintain "friendly relations" with the Birmingham (California) chapter, which had withdrawn from PVA earlier in the year.

In order to get the fullest possible representation and activity on the part of all chapters, it was voted that any chapter not represented in the top four PVA elective offices be allowed to name a vice president to the official slate.

In this coming year one of the large problems that we have to solve is that of greater national unity.

Your delegates to the convention all expressed a desire to maintain a strong national organization. They have made several decisions to help promote a solution. A few are: a national officer in each chapter, more interchapter correspondence, paraplegia itineraries set up by each chapter to guide visiting paraplegics, a national job placement chairman (Mr. Robert Frost), a pledge of cooperation in promoting activity on a national scale and publishing the Paraplegia News. — William P. Green, July 1952



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1953 At their 7th annual convention, PVA delegates reelected three of their top officials, voted to reduce the *per capita* dues paid to national by the chapters, authorized the president traveling expenses up to \$1000 per year, awarded Fred Levinthal of New York a certificate of appreciation, and accepted the invitation of the Vaughan Chapter to hold the 8th national convention in Chicago, Illinois.

Reelected were William Green (president), Robert Frost (vice president) and Harry Schweikert Jr. (treasurer). Joseph Brennan was elected secretary.

Representatives from all but one chapter attended the convention, and although the debates were lively, they were orderly.

A new office — hospitalization chairman — was created to keep a census of the paraplegic patients being hospitalized, the number of VA hospital beds open and filled, and all affairs related to hospitalization.

The most important resolution adopted by the convention was a reduction in the *per capita* national dues from \$3 to \$2 for service-connected veterans and from \$1 to 50 cents for nonservice-connected veterans.

This year, relations with the Birmingham (California) chapter were strained; the president was empowered to take whatever action he deemed necessary at the end of six months.

proved by delegates during the three-day convention, and several changes to the bylaws were approved, including a dues increase to \$3 (SC) and \$1 (NSC). "Speedy" was adopted as an official PVA symbol.



1956 Raymond K. Conley Jr. was unanimously elected PVA's new president at the 10th national convention, held in Chicago, Illinois. Delmo Giagnoni was elected vice president; Jack S. Schnaitter, secretary; Harry A. Schweikert Jr., treasurer; and Outgoing President Frost, honorary president.

Hospitalization — both veteran and nonveteran — was a main topic of conversation at the convention. In addition, delegates voted to support legislation that would provide a sliding scale pension to nonservice-connected paraplegic veterans. A statement of PVA policy and purposes was approved.

A tally of membership cards revealed that the organization had 1057 members.



1954 At its 8th national convention, held in record-breaking heat in Chicago, Illinois, PVA voted to combine the *Journal of Paraplegia*, the publication of the National Paraplegia Foundation, with *Paraplegia News*.

Officers elected were Robert Frost (president), William Green (honorary president), James McDermott (vice president), Waller Aiken (secretary) and Morris McGee (treasurer). Morris McGee was appointed legislative director.

A salary of \$100 a month was voted to *PN* Editor Robert Bather and Associate Editor Ted Anderson, and a \$100-a-month allowance was given to the editor for secretarial services. The associate editor got a \$50-a-month secretarial allowance.

Meanwhile, California was balloting members to approve rejoining the national organization.

In going through the membership list for the PVA, the one impression that stayed with me more than any other was that the PVA is made up of a real cross section of America. We are the ambitious and the lazy, the bright and the dull, the emotional and the stable, the rich and the poor — the one common denominator is paraplegia. — Robert Frost, August 1954.



1955 PVA's 9th national convention took place July 18-20 at the New Yorker Hotel in New York City.

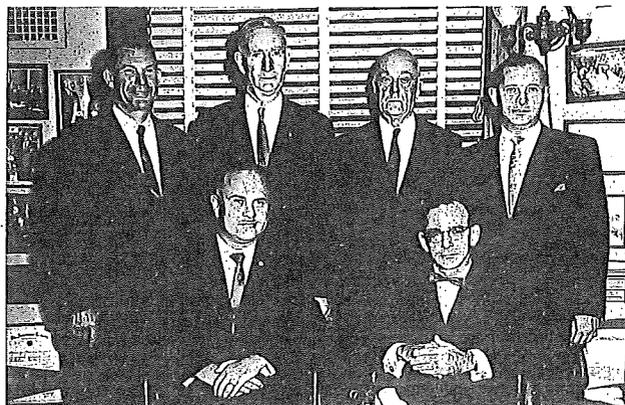
Robert Frost and Raymond Conley were unanimously elected to the offices of president and vice president, respectively. Ray Werner was elected treasurer and James Seybold, secretary. William Green was reelected honorary president.

Approximately 30 resolutions and proposals were ap-

1957 Raymond K. Conley Jr. was reelected PVA's president at the 11th annual convention, held in Boston, Massachusetts. Delmo Giagnoni and Jack Schnaitter were reelected vice president and secretary, respectively, and Richard Carlson was elected treasurer.

Membership in PVA had reached 1333. Over 30 resolutions were approved by convention delegates, including one that urged the PVA president and legislative director to obtain recognition as a representative organization by both Congress and the VA. The *PN* editor was given a voice in convention proceedings: He could make motions but had no vote. One half of all national dues were allotted to *PN*, and each chapter was asked for a donation of \$1.50 per member for the support of the magazine.

Hugo Deffner, the Handicapped Man of the Year, and Benjamin Lipton, administrator of the Joseph Bulova



1957. NEPVA officers Les Burghoff and Bill Green (seated, left to right) meet with commanders of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs Charles Collatos on legislation.

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School of Watchmaking (and organizer of the first annual National Wheelchair Games), were awarded certificates of appreciation for their contributions to the betterment of life for the paraplegic.

Dr. L. W. Freeman, chairman of the National Paraplegia Foundation's Medical Advisory Board, received PVA's first annual [Speedy] award to a nondisabled person, in recognition of his work in the area of spinal cord research. Gilford S. Moss received the organization's first [Speedy] award "to the paraplegic who has done the most for paraplegia." Moss assisted in the formation of both PVA and the NPF and was elected the first president of each national organization.

1958 At the 12th annual convention, held in Chicago in July 1958, Harry A. Schweikert Jr. was elected PVA's new president. Richard F. Carlson was elected vice president; Dennis Lamb, treasurer; and Leslie Burghoff, secretary. Dr. Arthur S. Abramson was appointed medical consultant for PVA.

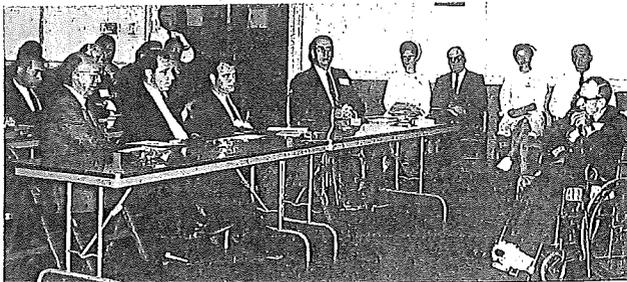
PVA's Annual [Speedy] Award went to Dr. A. Estin Comarr (nondisabled) and John M. Price (disabled). Certificates of appreciation were awarded to Jeanne Christensen (writer and frequent contributor to *PN*), John Dodge Clark Jr. (artist who contributed many cartoons to *PN*), Bob Herrera (author of the comic strip "Pete Plegia" appearing in *PN*) and Homer "Bud" Thomas (writer and cartoonist).

It's a big jump from a convention floor to the presidency of the Paralyzed Veterans of America. And, considering that I have been a delegate to eleven national conventions, it's been a long one.

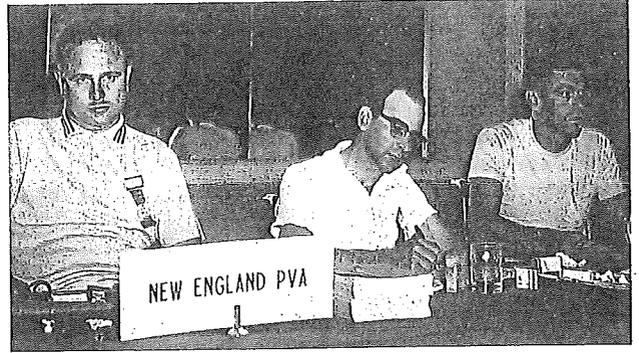
The position in which I find myself is a peculiar one. From an inveterate president-picker-onner, I suddenly become the one whose program will be open to exacting scrutiny. The feeling is one of apprehension...of awe at its magnitude, yet a thrill for its potential. What my program shall be is a question I cannot honestly answer, and yet I know the membership is entitled to, and expecting, such an answer. I can report that I have started by adding some members to my board who, I am certain, will contribute much during the year.
— Harry A. Schweikert Jr.,
September 1958.



1959 Dwight D. Gullfoill Jr. was elected PVA president of the 13th annual convention, held in New York City. The new vice president was Fred Christensen and the new sec-



1959. NEPVA President Bill Green speaks to the VA Chiefs Conference and SCI seminar at West Roxbury.



1959. NEPVA convention delegates (left to right) Les Burghoff, Bill Green and Dennis Lamb.

retary was Paul Anzengruber. Dennis Lamb was reelected treasurer.

Drs. James B. Campbell and C.A.L. Bassett were presented the Speedy Award for their contributions in the field of paraplegia during 1958. Harry Schweikert Jr. also received a Speedy Award, for his outstanding work as president of PVA.

Two special awards were presented: The Honorable Olin Teague, chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, received an award for his role in the passage of legislation beneficial to PVA members. O.C. (Terry) Rose also received an award, in recognition of his work as national sponsor of PVA.

On July 22, 1959, the 13th annual convention of the Paralyzed Veterans of America selected me as its president for the year 1959-60.

While I am highly appreciative of the honor accorded me, I am more deeply concerned with the responsibility it entails. In the six weeks since I assumed office, I have already discovered two basic weaknesses within our national organization.

The first is the lack of continuity in the administration of business affairs of the National Office. To perpetuate this organization and to secure progress in the future, some method must be devised to eliminate this problem and allow the business affairs of PVA to continue to function during the transition periods when new officers assume responsibility annually.

The other weakness is apathy. The lethargic attitude we have encountered among our membership is most discouraging. — Dwight D. Gullfoill Jr., October 1959.



1960 At the 14th annual convention, held July 20-23, 1960, in Denver, Robert Classon was elected PVA's president. Harold Stone was elected the new vice president, and the offices of secretary and treasurer were combined at this meeting. Earl V. Manire was elected to the new position of secretary-treasurer.

Over 300 conventioners and guests attended the closing banquet, at which the Speedy Awards were given to Julius Tannenbaum (for his work in the formation of new chapters for the National Paraplegia Foundation) and to John Price (for his continued work as editor of *Paraplegia News*).

A program of service for PVA's membership was initiated. Chapters were provided a budget from which they could pay

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one of their members to pursue claims for the others. Patrick J. Marron was appointed national adjudication director.

PVA had just under 2200 members.

During the month of July, the Democrats and the Republicans held their conventions. Sandwiched between these two was the convention of the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Officers were elected and a platform hammered out. This platform, although not of as much importance as those of the two political parties, will be of great benefit to all paralyzed veterans. — Robert Classon, September 1960.



1961 PN editor John Price died just after returning home from the 15th national convention, which was held in Miami, Florida. He had been reappointed editor at the convention; Frank G. MacAloon was asked by the president to take over that role. PN subscription rates were raised to \$2.50 a year.

The previous slate of officers was reelected: Robert Classon, president; Harold Stone, vice president; and Earl V. Manire, secretary-treasurer.

The convention approved the setting up of a separate National Office in New York City as soon as the budget would permit the hiring of an executive secretary.

Harry Schweikert Jr. was appointed PVA's first national service director.



1961. Dr. N. Howard Hyman (back row, third from right) and his wife Tess (back row, far left) played host to a group of Long Island NPF members by taking the group to Leone's Restaurant for dinner. Afterward, they topped the evening off by seeing the smash hit show, Camelot, at the Majestic Theater in New York City. Shown are some of the 35 members at intermission time. Dr. Hyman was well known for his help with the physically disabled.

1962 On July 18-20, 1962, PVA held its 16th annual convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

John Farkas was elected president; Harold Stone and Earl V. Manire were reelected vice president and secretary-treasurer, respectively.

One of the major topics of discussion was the establishment of a permanent office in Washington, DC, to be admin-



1962. Standing, left to right, are the Honorable Olin Teague, Robert A. Everett and Ray Roberts. Seated, left to right, are Howard Bennett, Virginia chapter treasurer; Dixon Christian, legislative codirector; and Robert Classon, immediate past national president.

istered by an executive director. A special committee was formed to define the functions of the proposed executive director.

PVA's membership was 2467.

During the month of July, the PVA held its 16th annual convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

One of the major topics of discussion, during our meetings, was the establishment of a permanent office in Washington, DC, under the administration of an executive director. A special committee composed of Richard Carlson, John Krenzel, Leslie Burghoff, Leonard Kennedy and Pat Marron was formed to define the functions of the proposed executive director. — John Farkas, September 1962.



1962. On behalf of the UN Postal Administration, David B. Vaughan, director of General Services (center), accepted an award from Patrick J. Marron, president of EPVA (left) on January 17. The award was given in appreciation for UNPA's policy of employing paraplegics and other physically disabled men.

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1963 Bob Webb had taken over as editor of *PN* beginning with the August 1963 issue; he was officially appointed editor at the 17th annual convention, held for a record-breaking five days in Miami, Florida.

John Farkas, Harold Stone and Earl V. Manire were re-elected as president, vice president and secretary-treasurer, respectively.

After more than 11 years of estrangement, California rejoined national PVA. The office of national executive secretary was established and its budget allocated; the Executive Committee was given 30 days to find a qualified person to fill the job. (The Executive Committee, composed of the national president, vice president, immediate past president and two elected members, was formed at this convention.) [Harry Schweikert Jr. was later chosen as PVA's first executive secretary.]

PVA Employer of the Year awards were given to representatives of Ace Electronics Associates, Inc., of Somerville, Massachusetts (civilian category), and the US Army Aviation and Surface Materiel Command (military category).

[According to *PN*, John Farkas was impeached just before the 1964 convention, and Harold L. Stone took over as acting president.]

Now that PVA has begun a new year, I would like to give you a full report of last year's accomplishments. Unfortunately, time and space will not allow it. Therefore, I will report on one of PVA's many programs and hope that it will serve as a sample of our overall progress.

Membership is the heart and core of the organization. Four years ago there were eight PVA chapters; now there are 17, an increase of nine chapters. Not only is there an increase in chapters, but also a more widespread geographic representation. PVA chapters spread from New England to Mexico, from Virginia to California, from South Dakota to Puerto Rico. Even the "old" chapters have increased membership. (There is still a lot of fire left in the ol' war horses.)

— Harold L. Stone, July 1964.

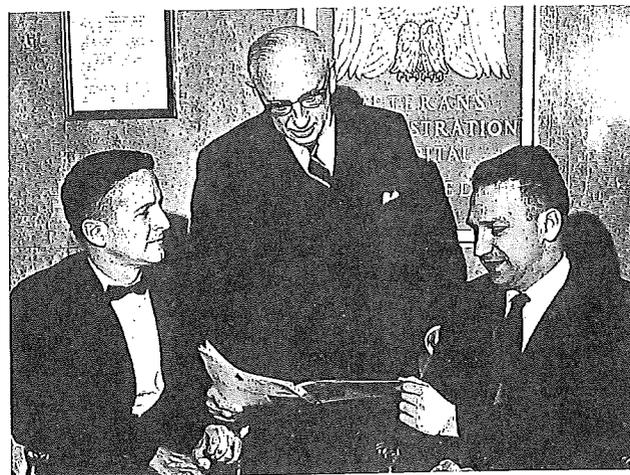


Dr. Ernest Bors of the Long Beach VA hospital received the nondisabled Speedy Award, and Mickey Donohue accepted the disabled Speedy Award on behalf of former *PN* editor Frank MacAloon. Robert Classon received a special award for past service.

New officers were President Harold Wagner, Vice President Ed Maxwell and Secretary-Treasurer Earl Manire (reelected).

I am happy to report that two new chapters were affiliated with the Paralyzed Veterans of America at this convention. It gives me great pleasure to welcome the Mexico and the Great Northwest chapters.

The national budget for the coming year was cut considerably, and the grand total for the coming year stands at \$89,660. All in all, the convention moved along very smoothly under the capable guidance of President Harold Stone. — Harold Wagner, October 1964.



1964. National Vice President Hal Stone (left) and Michigan PVA President Steve Florescu (right) show a copy of *PN* to Dr. Leon Ross, director of the Ann Arbor VA Hospital.

1964 Just a few days before the 18th annual convention, held in Santa Monica, California, Harold Stone took over the office of national president; John Farkas had been impeached, according to *PN*.



1964. Veteran Clipper (basketball) player Dick Foley and team manager Les Burghoff are congratulated by Boston's Mayor John F. Collins on the beginning of the Clippers' 17th season.



1964. Archie Ladewig, president of Archie Ladewig Co., Waukesha, Wisconsin, received a distinguished service award "in appreciation for his interest, friendship and services to the causes of paraplegia and spinal cord injury" from Jim Seybold at the meeting of the Milwaukee NPF chapter on November 19.

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1965 The 19th annual PVA convention took place July 20-24 in New York City. Among major actions taken were: sending a telegram to President Johnson endorsing his stand in South Vietnam, creating a national award for the handicapped athlete of the year and endorsing the recommendation of the *PN* editor to expand the magazine to 20 pages.

One highlight of the week was the appearance of Senator and Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy at a special evening session, where the senator accepted a PVA Award of Distinction for the late President John F. Kennedy.

Professor Timothy Nugent of the University of Illinois received the nonparaplegic Speedy Award for his pioneering in paraplegia rehabilitation. Harold Stone, winner in the paraplegic division, was honored for his direct contributions to the cause of paraplegia and for his involvement in community affairs.

Officers elected were president — Harold Wagner, vice president — Robert Rohrer, secretary-treasurer — Howard Bennett, Executive Committee — Allan Jarabin, Conrad Standing and Harold Stone. Harry A. Schweikert Jr. was reappointed executive secretary.



1965. Master showman Jimmy Durante congratulates Clipper (basketball) players (left to right) Dick Foley, Bill Frey and Greg Seymourian on the completion of the Clippers' 17th season.

1966 The 20th annual PVA convention was called to order on July 18, 1966, in Detroit, Michigan. Some of the more important actions taken were the creation of the post of architectural barriers coordinator, the official recognition by PVA of girls (the formation of women's auxiliaries was endorsed) and endorsement of the conduct of the war in Vietnam.

New officers elected were Leslie Burghoff, president; Leonard Chrysler, vice president; Howard Bennett, secretary-treasurer; Wayne Capson, Sanford Weinzimer and Robert Rohrer, Executive Committee. The new president reappointed Harry Schweikert Jr. as executive secretary (until a re-



1966. The command post of the 20th-anniversary convention in action: (left to right) Howard Bennett, Robert Rohrer, Harold Wayne, Harry Schweikert and two comely secretaries who diligently recorded the proceedings. Photo by Locke Photographic Service.



1966. Charles Swartz (right), president of NEPVA, presents PVA Executive Secretary Schweikert a special plaque of commendation. The presentation was made at the convention's closing banquet. Photo by Locke Photographic Service.

placement could be found, since Schweikert had expressed his desire to step down from the position), William Green as national service director and Bob Webb as *PN* editor.

Dr. Donald Munroe received the Speedy Award for the nonparaplegic category. John Krenzel won the award in the paraplegic category.

The emphasis of PVA's program for the coming year has been mandated by the directors in convention. We will strive to strengthen the protective features in the nonservice-connected pension laws. Specifically, we look for higher income limitations, which would permit concurrent payment with the proposed increases in social security disability benefits. PVA will petition the Congress to provide medical supply benefits, now available only to quadriplegics, for NSC paraplegics. — Leslie Burghoff, September 1966.



40 YEARS IN REVIEW

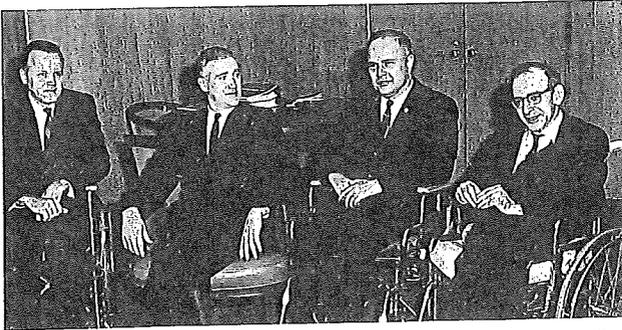
1967

The 21st annual convention got underway on July 24, 1967, in Houston, Texas. Among the important matters approved by delegates were continuation of PVA's service, sports and architectural barriers programs; continuing support of the US government's policy in Vietnam; and a 1967-68 PVA budget of \$189,000.

All three incumbent officers ran for reelection and all won by unanimous vote of the delegates. The three Executive Committee seats were taken by Wayne Capson, Ed Maxwell and Jim Schwiem. Howard Bennett (who had replaced Harry Schweikert Jr.) was reappointed executive director, and Benny Tschetter was the new architectural barriers coordinator.

In an unprecedented move, PVA presented four Speedy Awards instead of two. Recipients were James Smittkamp, Judith R. Krenzel and Lois M. Rohrer — all of the National Paraplegia Foundation — and Dr. R. Carl Bunts, noted VA urologist. The John Price Award for Outstanding Chapter of the Year was presented to New England PVA.

PVA boasted 4674 certified members in 21 chapters.



1967. PVA representatives discuss disabled veterans' problems with William J. Driver, administrator of the VA, at his Washington Office. Seated (left to right) are Howard Bennett, PVA executive secretary; Mr. Driver; Leslie P. Burghoff Jr., PVA president; and William P. Green, PVA national service director.

1968

The 22nd annual convention, held July 29-August 4, 1968, in San Francisco, California, was labeled "The Year of the Great Cuts" — budget, that is. In five days of hectic (and sometimes heated) general and committee sessions, \$55,782 was chopped from the 1968-69 operating bud-



1968. National Service Director William Green (at table, right) and Harry Schweikert Jr. (at table, left) present PVA's views to the Veterans' Advisory Commission in Washington, DC.

get, affecting such programs as architectural barriers, the Executive Committee and sports.

Officers elected were Wayne Capson, president; Carlos Rodriguez, vice president; and retiring executive director Howard Bennett, secretary-treasurer. Burton Little and Ernest Sawyer were elected to the Executive Committee.

The new president appointed Peter Lassen of California as national executive director.

Speedy Awards were presented to Lloyd Pantages and (posthumously) Ted Anderson. California received the John Price Most Outstanding Chapter Award.

The 1968 convention has passed into history as the Year of the Great Cuts. But before it passes too far, let's look back a moment to the last year and to the men who dedicated time and energy to furthering the purposes and programs of this organization.

By all standards, it was a great and productive year for these men. We have had (unheard of in any one year) three pieces of major veterans' legislation passed and signed into law. These three laws will benefit most of our members. Included is a new architectural barriers law with a strong provision for removing barriers from public housing — an object of persistent efforts on the part of PVA. — Wayne Capson, October 1968.



1968. Always the politician, Austin Kelly (front, left) spreads good will with Senator Edward Kennedy (back, center). Also pictured are Austin's niece, Mary Kelly (back, right), Mrs. Austin Kelly (back, left) and Joan Kennedy (front, right).

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1969 July 14-20, 1969, PVA delegates met for their 23rd annual convention in Miami Beach, Florida.

All three incumbent officers — President Wayne Capson, Vice President Carlos Rodriguez and Secretary-Treasurer Howard Bennett — were reelected by acclamation. Leslie Burghoff, Glenn Mayer and Gerald Daniell were elected to the Executive Committee.

Howard Bennett (disabled) and Dr. Paul C. Bucy (non-disabled) were recipients of the Speedy Award.

The National Office was given the green light to establish a "Speedy Speed Letter" designed to disseminate information within a 24-hour period to PVA chapters. The *PN* editor was given the go-ahead to expand the magazine to 24 pages when advertisements reached over 25 percent of the 20-page magazine. The National Service Program was maintained at the same level of operation as the previous year, and the Sports Program budget was increased. The Executive Committee was allocated \$5000 to test a new fundraising program.

1970 The 24th annual convention was held July 19-26, 1970, in Chicago, Illinois.

There was much discussion about the May 1970 *Life* magazine article, "Assignment to neglect," and its implications as to the level of care provided the SCI in VA hospitals. Delegates agreed that PVA would go on record as supporting the contentions of the *Life* article. In fact, EPVA Executive Director Donald Broderick appeared on the *Today* show on Thursday of convention week to repudiate the denial of problems by the VA on an earlier *Today* program that same week.

Elected by acclamation were Carlos Rodriguez, president; Ronald Royal, vice president; and Howard Bennett, secretary-treasurer. Capt. Jack Barleon and Gerald Daniell were elected to fill the two vacant Executive Committee seats. The new president appointed Michael Burns executive director and Cliff Crase sports coordinator.

Leslie Burghoff (disabled) and Dr. Frank H. Krusen (non-disabled) were recipients of the Speedy Award.

Our national convention in Chicago is over and the delegates to that convention have honored me by electing me president of this great organization. I am sincerely thankful for the confidence they have placed in me.

It has been said, "There is not a job in the world that cannot be done better than it is being done. A man is not doing the best he can for the company that employs him, the people he serves or for the world if he goes through life without looking for that better way." I subscribe to this philosophy. — Carlos Rodriguez, September 1970.



1971 PVA's Silver (25th) Anniversary Annual Convention took place in Los Angeles, California, on July 26-31, 1971.

Elected were Carlos Rodriguez, president; James E. Smith, vice president; Howard L. Bennett, secretary-treasurer; and Capt. Jack Barleon, Gerry Daniell and Buddy Rogers, Executive Committee.

Some new standing committees were formed — a Development Committee, a committee to analyze and oversee the investment of contingency funds and a Research & Development Committee. It was decided to move the National Service Program from New England to Washington, DC.

Three Speedy Awards were presented: to Dr. Erich G. Krueger (nondisabled), and M.C. (Monty) Montgomery and Robert Moss (disabled).

[A landmark in PVA history occurred just a month after the convention when, on August 12, 1971, President Nixon signed into law H.R. 2894 (Public Law 92-92), granting a federal charter to the Paralyzed Veterans of America.]



1971. NEPVA was always happy to receive a check for research from National PVA. Pictured are (left to right) NEPVA Research Director Capt. Jack Barleon, National Vice President James E. Smith and National Service Director Bill Green. West Roxbury VA photo.

1972 The 26th annual convention met in Miami Beach, Florida, July 17-22, 1972.

At this meeting, the Executive Committee was expanded, a PVA-NPF *ad hoc* committee to facilitate communication and understanding between the two organizations was formed, and the composition and roles of the Research Guidance Committee and the Fund Development Committee were defined.

Frank DeGeorge was elected president and John Rine, vice president; Howard Bennett was reelected secretary-treasurer. Chosen for the Executive Committee were Gerald Daniell, James Seybold, George Gentry and William Green. Peter Lassen was appointed architectural barriers coordinator; Harry Schweikert Jr., acting executive director; and James Seybold, director of research, rehabilitation and education.

Speedy Awards went to the late Ed Maxwell (disabled) and Dr. William F. Windle (nondisabled).

Our 26th Annual PVA National Convention "Silver Plus 1" in Miami Beach is now history, and as your newly elected national president of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, I am highly honored to follow in the shadow of our past president, Carlos Rodriguez, and the officers before him. I wish to congratulate each newly elected officer and appointee and express thanks to the past officers who laid the foundation and framework upon which your new officers shall continue to build. — Frank R. DeGeorge, September 1972.



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1973

On July 16-22, 1973, in San Francisco, California, delegates met for PVA's 27th annual convention. Among matters discussed was the new PVA/EPVA Corporation. The new plant had been leased [in Wilton, New Hampshire], key staff hired, and PVA was in business.

Frank DeGeorge and John Rine were reelected president and vice president, respectively, and Gerald Daniell was elected secretary-treasurer. Elected to the Executive Committee were Carlos Rodriguez, Pat Grissom, William Green, Philip Harper and James Jachim. President DeGeorge appointed James Maye executive director and representative to NPF, and John Rine, World Veterans Federation representative.

Speedy Awards went to Dr. Marc Musser (nondisabled) and Wayne Capson (disabled).



1973. Greg Bacopulos (center) of Mid-South makes it a terpsichorean threesome with Peggy and Lou Gundunas at the convention's opening night festivities. Photo by Nicolaos Karantillon.

1974

The 28th annual convention was held July 22-27, 1974, in San Juan, Puerto Rico — the first time delegates had held their annual meeting outside of the continental US.

Officers elected were Donald Broderick, president; Thomas Deniston, vice president; Gerald Daniell, secretary-treasurer. Executive Committee members elected were Carlos Rodriguez, Ed Jasper, Pat Grissom and James Jachim.

President Broderick appointed Phil Harper national service director and Leslie Burghoff chairman of the Development Committee.

It would be out of character if I didn't remind all chapter officers that the challenge belongs to all of us. The chapter directors have voted for some very dramatic changes and new programs. They will be called upon to provide the back-up information needed.

The National Executive Committee has at last been given some explicit powers and duties.

Our National Service Program will be revamped. It will move from our present Washington office to new quarters directly within the Veterans Administration Central Office.

PVA's research director has been given the task of assembling all the facts and opinions necessary for the establishment of our own Research and Technology Foundation. — Donald H. Broderick, September 1974.



1975

Attendees at PVA's 29th annual convention stayed inside the hotel most of the time to avoid the heat and humidity in Phoenix, Arizona. At the July 21-26 meeting, 26 chapters were officially recognized, with a total voting strength of 112.

The greatest growth in PVA's 29-year history had taken place during 1974-75. All of the chapters had been incorporated in their own states.

Among business discussed was the need for a computer in the National Office.

Among the most important decisions reached were establishment of the Technology and Research Foundation; reorganization and expansion of the National Office to eliminate the position of deputy director and add those of full-time legislative director, architectural barriers director, comptroller and research director; and revamping of the National Service Program to include paid service officers under national jurisdiction at the chapter level, as well as the opening of a second National Service Office in Washington, DC.

The long-overdue (since 1946) indexing of Paraplegia News was approved, as were funding for a national bowling tourney and a National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament.

Don Broderick was unanimously reelected president. Tom Deniston and Gerald Daniell were reelected vice president and secretary-treasurer, respectively. The open seats on the Executive Committee were filled by Ed Jasper, Hugh Pendleton, Carlos Rodriguez, Frank DeGeorge and Pat Maron.

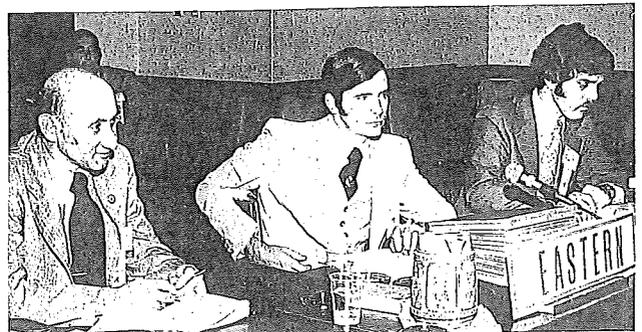
Dr. Larry Ross was appointed executive director and Gerald Daniell, chairman of the Investment Committee. PVA/EPVA directors from PVA would be Don Broderick, Les Burghoff, Gerald Daniell and Larry Ross.

KMO was chosen Most Improved Chapter, Florida and Eastern tied for Most Outstanding Chapter and North Central received the President's Achievement Award. Speedy Awards were presented to Bob Rynearson (nondisabled) and Joseph Mandella (disabled, posthumously).

1976

PVA's 30th annual convention was held July 19-23, 1976, in Denver, Colorado. Gateway and Oregon were welcomed as PVA's 28th and 29th chapters, respectively. Bob Classon was appointed official annual meeting parliamentarian.

The most important and far-reaching resolution enacted was a call for the complete restructuring of the PVA national organization to keep in step with the rapidly increasing growth and scope, as well as complexity, of PVA's pro-



1976. (Left to right) Lou Santelice, Jim Peters and Gerard Kelly of Eastern PVA follow closely the proceedings at the annual meeting.

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grams. An initial step was the abolishment of the National Executive Committee as an advisory group and the scheduling of three meetings of the Board of Directors in 1976-77. Further details of PVA's structural reorganization were relegated to the first interim BOD meeting in Washington, DC, to be held in January 1977.

Among other important actions were the reaffirmation of strong support of research through PVA's Technology and Research Foundation, upgrading of the National Service Program, strong support of wheelchair sports and a major commitment to the architectural barriers/accessible public mass transit battle.

One item discussed but overwhelmingly rejected was the raising of the PN subscription price from \$4 to \$4.50.

Ed Jasper was elected president and Joe Romagnano, vice president. Hugh Pendleton won the secretary-treasurer post. James Maye was appointed executive director.

1976 Speedy Award winners were Dr. Harold Truebger (disabled) and Odell Vaughan (nondisabled). California won the John Price Award for Most Improved Chapter; Michigan, the Presidential Award; Bay Area & Western, Best Newsletter by a chapter with more than 200 members; and Delaware, Best Newsletter by a chapter with fewer than 200 members.



1976. Shown at PVA's reception for former PVA Executive Director James Maye are (left to right) Dr. Larry Ross, PVA executive director; Congressman G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery (Mississippi); Donald Broderick, PVA president; Congressman Lester Wolf (New York); and James Maye.

It is with great honor and pride that I am writing you as your new president of PVA. I'm looking forward to the coming year and all its challenges with complete optimism. My optimism comes mainly from the new direction that the PVA Board of Directors has taken this July at the Annual Board of Directors Meeting in Denver, Colorado.

The National Executive Committee has been dissolved because of its limited authoritative powers. Consequently, the PVA board will meet three times this next year to make policy and direction decisions, which have become numerous with the expansion of our organization these last two years. — Ed Jasper, September 1976.



1977 From July 18-22, 1977, PVA delegates and families attended the 31st annual convention in Dearborn, Michigan. Central Florida was welcomed as the newest chapter.

The seven-member team of officers who would form the Corporate Board of Management of PVA was elected: Ed Jasper, president; Joe Romagnano, senior vice president; Jim Peters, vice president; Jack Powell, vice president; Michael Delaney, vice president; Frank Rigo, secretary; and Hugh Pendleton, treasurer.

Awards presented were: Gerald Jones, American Bowling Association (AWBA) Award; Zia PVA, John Price Award for Most Improved Chapter; Delaware PVA, John Price Award for Most Outstanding Chapter; Frank Chimera (designer and maker of the first official seal for PVA), special Speedy Emblem presentation; Eastern PVA, President's Award; Cliff Crase, Chickadee Award; Dr. Ahmed Z. El Ghatit, Speedy Award (nondisabled); and Frank DeGeorge, Speedy Award (disabled).

It was resolved that PVA would purchase a building for office and living space.



1977. Past PVA president Pat Grissom (left) and Carlos Rodriguez admire special awards of rug hair piece for Grissom's shiny dome and suit of used clothing (worn to at least three funerals) for Rodriguez for their years of dedicated service to the Paralyzed Veterans of America. Photo by Allen Park.

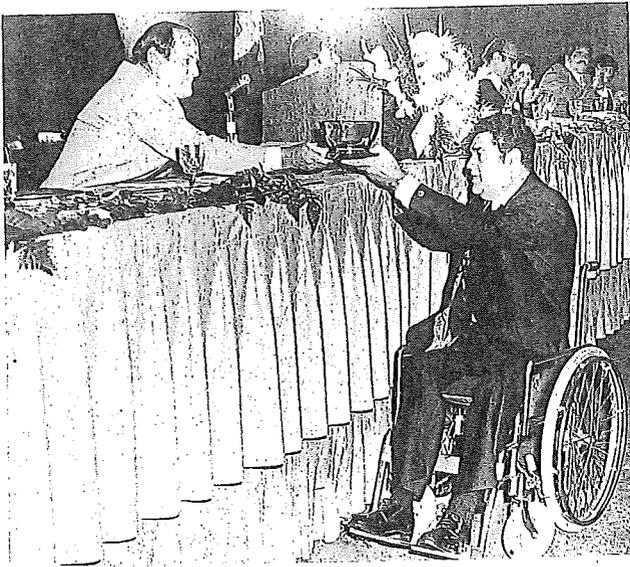


1977. PVA President Ed Jasper (center, left) and former National President Leslie Burghoff swear in additional new PVA officers: (left to right) Secretary Frank Rigo, Vice President James Peters, Jasper, Burghoff, Vice President Jack Powell and Vice President John Madsen. New officers will join President Jasper, Senior Vice President Joe Romagnano and Treasurer Hugh Pendleton to form PVA's new Board of Management.

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1977. Pat Grissom (left), one of the founders and former national president (1950) of PVA, swears in newly elected PVA officers who will form the Corporate Board of Management: (left to right) Treasurer Hugh Pendleton from California, Secretary Frank Rigo of Arizona, Vice President James J. Peters of Eastern, Vice President Michael Delaney of Michigan, Vice President Jack Powell of Vaughan, Vice President Joe Romagnano of Alabama-Mississippi and President Ed Jasper of Bay Area. Photo by A. Parsons.



1977. Angelo Nicosia receives award on behalf of his chapter for their sponsorship of the most outstanding event of the year from President Ed Jasper. The event was a joint PVA-SCI conference held at Castle Point VAH. Photo by A. Parsons.



1977. Smiling Frank Chimera of Florida receives permanent plaque of official PVA seal he designed from President Ed Jasper. Photo by A. Parsons.

1978 PVA's 32nd annual convention was held July 17-21, 1978, in Kansas City, Missouri. National officers elected were Joseph Romagnano, president; Mike Delaney, senior vice president; James Peters, vice president; Paul Cheremeta, vice president; Edward Jasper, vice president; Frank Rigo, secretary; and Jack Sanders, treasurer.

New appointees were Lawrence W. Roffee Jr., executive director; John S. Barleon, chairman, Investment Committee; and Paul Cheremeta, NPF liaison. Bob Webb had passed away on April 8; a new *PN* editor [Cliff Crase] would be appointed after the convention.

The Bob Webb Excellence in a Newsletter Award was established, to be presented annually at the convention to the editor of the winning newsletter.

The John Price Most Improved Chapter Award went to Great Plains; the Most Outstanding Chapter Award went to Vaughan. Speedy Awards went to Jonas Salk (nondisabled) and Carlos Rodriguez (disabled). A new award, the Awareness Award, went to the late Totie Fields.

The Board of Directors assembled and elected the officers to serve PVA for the coming year. Elections can create mixed emotions...some must win and some must lose... However, it's the spirit that counts. It's the involvement in a great veterans' organization that makes it all worthwhile, win or lose.

To our newly elected officers I would like to say, "Welcome aboard; you have just joined the ranks of long hours, hard work and many miles of travel." As the expression goes, "And that's a fact." — Joe Romagnano, September 1978.



1979 The 33rd annual convention was held July 30-August 3, 1979, in Houston, Texas. Officers elected were Joseph Romagnano, president; Michael Delaney, senior vice president; Jim Peters, vice president; Paul Cheremeta, vice president; Jack Sanders, treasurer; and Frank Rigo, secretary.

New appointees were R. Jack Powell, executive director, and Cliff Crase, *PN* editor.



1979. President Joe Romagnano admires his dream PVA van — a special gift from the membership.

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Only one Speedy Award was presented; it went to Bunny Sexton (nondisabled). The first Bob Webb Excellence in a Newsletter Award was presented to Ernesto Chavez, editor of the *Zia Roadrunner*. The John Price Award for the Most Outstanding Chapter went to Bay Area and Western, and the Most Improved Chapter Award went to Texas. EPVA received the President's Award (for the single most outstanding chapter event or project).

1980 PVA's 34th national convention was held at the Albuquerque (New Mexico) Hilton, July 21-25, 1980.

Officers elected were Michael Delaney, president; Paul Cheremeta, senior vice president; James Peters, vice president; Ralph Markward, vice president; Gene Murphy, vice president; Joseph Romagnano, immediate past president (per resolution passed at 1980 interim BOD meeting); Ed Jasper, treasurer; and Frank Rigo, secretary.

New appointments announced were Ed Jasper, Development Committee chairman; Angelo Nicosia, sports coordinator; and Joseph Romagnano, chaplain.

Speedy Award recipients were Dr. Benjamin A. Moeller (nondisabled) and James P. Hill (disabled). O.S. "Shorty" Bramlett received the Disabled Awareness Award. The John Price Most Outstanding Chapter Award was presented to Eastern PVA, and Puerto Rico accepted the Most Improved Chapter Award. The Bay Area and Western Chapter received the President's Cup. The Brian Cummings Sportsmanship Award went to Randy Snow.

Delegates voted to implement two National Membership Development Awards, to be presented annually at the convention to the chapter membership officer documenting the highest percentage increase in new membership for the preceding fiscal year.

It is indeed a great honor and privilege to be the first Vietnam veteran elected to the office of president of PVA — a position that has traditionally been held by some of the most dedicated and capable individuals in PVA, for whom I have the greatest respect and admiration!

As national president, I am confident that, with the full support of our membership, my fellow national officers and our National Office staff, PVA will rise to meet the challenge of the 80's. — Michael Delaney, September 1980.



1981 PVA's 35th annual convention was held in Denver, Colorado, July 19-24, 1981.

Elected to the Executive Committee were Michael Delaney, president; Paul Cheremeta, senior vice president; Ralph Markward, vice president; James Peters, vice president; George Jackson, vice president; Ed Jasper, treasurer; Frank Rigo, secretary; and Joseph Romagnano, immediate past president.

The Cal-Diego chapter was voted into probationary status as a new chapter.

Speedy Awards went to Dr. George Hohmann (disabled) and Dr. Inder Perkash (nondisabled). Victor Peary, editor of the Capital Area newsletter, received the Bob Webb Excellence in a Newsletter Award; Frank Harper of Sooner

received the Membership Development Award; and Dwain Taylor, Mid-South, accepted the Volunteer Program Award. Other chapter awards were: Puerto Rico, Chapter Sports Award; Great Plains, President's Award; Michigan, John Price Award for Most Improved Chapter; and EPVA, John Price Award for Most Outstanding Chapter.

Governor George Nigh of Oklahoma received the Disability Awareness Award.

Delegates voted to authorize the Board of Directors to appoint a PVA representative to the board of the National Spinal Cord Injury Foundation (formerly, National Paraplegia Foundation). It was also decided that PVA would purchase *Sports 'n Spokes* magazine.

1982 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was the site of the 36th annual convention, held August 23-28, 1982.

Officers voted in were Paul Cheremeta, president; Michael Delaney, immediate past president; Ed Jasper, treasurer; Frank Rigo, secretary; Jack Sanders, senior vice president; Jim Peters, vice president; Ralph Markward, vice president; George Jackson, vice president.

Dr. Alain B. Rossier (disabled) and Dr. Ibrahim Eltoral (nondisabled) won the Speedy Awards. Cartoonist Berke Breathed received the Harry A. Schweikert Jr. Disability Awareness Award.

Michigan chapter editor Jerome McInnes was the recipient of the Bob Webb Excellence in a Newsletter Award. Howard Gardner of the Georgia-Carolina chapter received the Membership Development Award.

The Chapter Sports Award went to EPVA, the John Price Most Improved Chapter Award to Zia and the President's Cup to Michigan.

The Cal-Diego chapter was taken off probationary status and declared a full-fledged chapter. Delegates established a national training conference for chapter presidents to be held at each annual convention and terminated the Regional Advocacy Program.

We face a number of challenges in the coming year, not the least of which is to increase our resources available to fund the necessary growth of our programs. PVA has begun to reach out and ask for corporate, foundation and individual contributions to finance the building of our new barrier-free home in Washington. I am very pleased with the enthusiasm and results generated so far by our Capital Campaign. I hope that every PVA member and PVA chapter will support us in our goal to raise one million dollars. — Paul Cheremeta, October 1982.

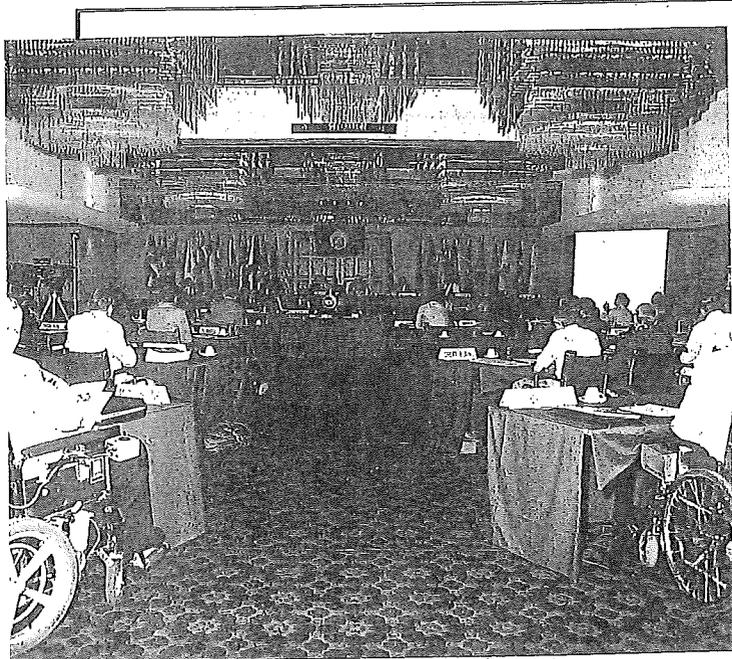


1983 Portland, Oregon, hosted the 37th annual convention, held August 2-6, 1983.

President Paul Cheremeta, Treasurer Ed Jasper and Secretary Frank Rigo were reelected by acclamation. George Jackson was voted senior vice president; James Peters, vice president; Dick Hoover, vice president; and Tom Duncan, vice president.

Captain Jack Barleon (disabled) and Miriam Frances King (nondisabled) won the Speedy Award. Denver biker Nancy Bertram was honored with the Harry A. Schweikert

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1983. Conventioneers hard at work in Portland, Oregon.

Jr. Disability Awareness Award.

James Smith of Cal-Diego won the Bob Webb Excellence in a Newsletter Award. Cal-Diego also was recipient of the Membership Development Award and the John Price Award for Most Improved Chapter. Puerto Rico won the John Price Award for Most Outstanding Chapter, and Eastern picked up the President's Cup. North Central won the Chapter Sports Award. The Dwain Taylor Volunteer Award was won by George Snyder from Florida PVA.

The Paralyzed Veterans First Day Cover Dedication Ceremony, in honor of the PVA commemorative stamp, was held during the convention.

1984

New Orleans, Louisiana, hosted PVA's 38th annual convention, held August 12-17, 1984.

The 1984-85 Executive Committee, elected at the convention, consisted of Richard Hoover, president; Paul Chermeta, immediate past president; George Jackson, senior vice president; Jim Peters, vice president; Tom Duncan, vice president; Jack Michaels, vice president; Ed Jasper, treasurer; and Frank Rigo, secretary.

Speedy Awards went to Audrey Young (nondisabled) and James Seybold (disabled, posthumously). Gary Burghoff won the Harry A. Schweikert Jr. Disability Awareness Award.

The John M. Price Award for Most Outstanding Chapter was presented to Cal-Diego, and the Most Improved Chapter Award went to Oregon. John Kilby, editor of the Virginia chapter newsletter, received the Bob Webb Excellence in a Newsletter Award. EPVA won the President's Cup, and Central Florida won the Membership Development Award. NEPVA took home the Chapter Sports Award.

A new PVA flag was adopted at this convention, and delegates approved PVA sponsorship of the National Music Festival for Disabled Veterans.

This is my first opportunity to address you as the president of PVA. I thank you for expressing your confidence in me by placing the stewardship of our organization in my hands. As I promised you during our convention in New

Orleans, I will do the best job I can to ensure that PVA continues to grow in both quality and quantity.

We have high quality programs in service, research, legislation and advocacy. We are fortunate this year to be able to provide full funding for all programs. I anticipate a significant increase in quality in our keystone programs of service and research. — Richard Hoover, October 1984



1985

From July 30 to August 3, 1985, delegates attended the 39th annual convention in Seattle, Washington.

Executive Committee members chosen for 1985-86 were Dick Hoover, president; Jack Michaels, senior vice president; Jim Peters, vice president; Harry Hargrave, vice president; Jim Smith, vice president; Ed Jasper, treasurer; and Frank Rigo, secretary.

No Speedy Awards were presented. Carolyn White Hodgins, director of the State Advocacy Office for the Developmentally Disabled in Virginia, won the Harry A. Schweikert Jr. Disability Awareness Award.

Zia chapter editor Ralph Markward won the Bob Webb Excellence in a Newsletter Award, and the North Central Chapter took home the President's Cup, the John M. Price Most Improved Chapter Award and the Membership Development Award. The John M. Price Most Outstanding Chapter Award was won by EPVA, and Cal-Diego was awarded the Chapter Sports Trophy.

Delegates approved Implementation of the Chapter Executive Director Program, and voted to explore the possibility of a national structured organization for interested relatives and friends of PVA members.

1986

PVA officers, delegates and staff will gather in Memphis, Tennessee, for five days in August (the 5th through the 9th) for the organization's 40th Anniversary annual convention. It will be a time for working and playing, for creating history and reminiscing.

Conventioneers and their families will stay at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, a fully equipped facility with 415 rooms, two restaurants, a lounge with live music, an indoor pool, a health club and a whirlpool. A full social agenda will keep spouses and children busy while delegates conduct business. Free afternoons and evenings can be spent exploring the sights and sounds of Memphis, relaxing with family and friends, and enjoying such planned activities as a special concert by singer-songwriter Lee Greenwood.

**After 40 years, PVA has a lot to celebrate —
COME AND BE A PART OF IT!**