United Access is proud to support PVA!

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Memphis, TN 38133
Toll free (888)939-1010 or (901)888-1010
info@unitedaccess.com

www.UnitedAccess.com
We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of our chapter members passing.

Fred A. Davis Jr.
William M. Freeman
Joseph L. Pullman
Herbert J. Turner

December 2014

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The PARA-GRAFI Published Bi-Monthly by Mid-South Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America 1030 Jefferson Ave., Rm. 2D100 Memphis, TN 38104, 1-800-767-3018, Fax: 901-528-1972, web site: www.midsouth-pva.org, and E-Mail: mspva@aol.com All material published is for your information and does not necessarily indicate an endorsement or reflect the views or opinions of the Mid-South Chapter.
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**October 2014**

National PVA Fall Board Meeting
Dallas, TX

**November 2014**

If you are having issues getting an appointment or being denied admission to the Memphis SCI center and not being referred to another SCI center, please notify Cliff Dupree, National Service Officer, at 1-800-795-3568.

If you are having problems getting an appointment at the Little Rock SCI, please notify Clyde Reed, National Service Officer, in Little Rock at 1-800-795-6236.

**Treasurer**
Truman Suttle

**Director at Large**
Leo Lawson

**Director at Large**
Vacant

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**A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Thank you for your overwhelming support for each one of us! I am honored to report the following election results:

- **President**
  Cheri Arnold

- **Vice President**
  William Bass

- **Secretary**
  Vacant

- **Treasurer**
  Truman Suttle

- **Director at Large**
  Leo Lawson

- **Director at Large**
  Vacant

---

I look forward to continuing service to the Chapter for the next 2 years to the best of my ability. Ms. Cindy McIntosh was appointed to the previously vacant Director at Large position and ratified by the Board at the July 16th BOD meeting. Ms. McIntosh has accepted the appointment and agreed to continue her service to our Chapter. She will be the “Acting Secretary” until further notice. Thanks, Cindy!

---

**Look** through this issue of the ParaGraph to find articles with information that is specific to Alabama, Arkansas and Mississippi for news and events in your local area! We are working hard to bring membership meetings to each of the four main states that make up the Mid-South Chapter.

The Mid-South Chapter is honored to have heroes among us. I recently received information from an organization called “Unsung Heroes”, Living History Project, Saluting the Legacy of African-Americans in the Military. They are a 501C(3) organization and they are seeking essays and short stories (no longer than 3,000 words), to tell the stories of African-Americans and people of color that have served in the military.

Submission deadline is Dec. 14, 2014. This is an opportunity to tell your true story of military service. To learn more, contact Lisa Daniels at (916) 629-4691, or email unsanghrvs@gmail.com.

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Those issues appear to have been addressed, and it is expected that the PVA Model Chapter Bylaws will be adopted at the upcoming PVA National Fall Board Meeting in Dallas, Texas which will be held from Sep 29 - Oct 1, 2014. Our Chapter is sending National Director - Mr. Truman Suttle, Chapter President - Mrs. Cheri Arnold and Executive Director - Ms. Sharon Mount.

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Stay as active as you can and have a great summer!

God Bless America!

Cheri Arnold
Hello Arkansas members! PVA Mid-South is working hard to expand activities and participation to all our members. I want to invite all Arkansas members to contact me via email cheripva@gmail.com, with your event suggestion. If you do not have email available, please leave a message for me at the Chapter (901) 527-3018. I will host a membership meeting on

**Saturday**

**Sept 20, 2014**

11:30 a.m.

in North Little Rock at

**Golden Corral**

5001 Warden Road

North Little Rock, AR 72116

I look forward to having an opportunity to bring you current updates on what is happening at the Chapter and brainstorming with you for a local event in Arkansas. There are opportunities coming up for Arkansas residents. Come out and see how you can get involved!

---

**ALIVE IN ARKANSAS**

**BY CHERI ARNOLD**

Hello Arkansas members! PVA Mid-South is working hard to expand activities and participation to all our members. I want to invite all Arkansas members to contact me via email cheripva@gmail.com, with your event suggestion. If you do not have email available, please leave a message for me at the Chapter (901) 527-3018. I will host a membership meeting on

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---

**PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT**

**BY LEO LAWSON**

Hello to all PVA Mid-South Chapter members. I know you are keeping busy and getting out of the house. I want to thank you for your vote to serve as your board member. I am going to do my best to represent you by making the right decision to keep the chapter going forward.

On July 4th, the Veterans Thunder Motorcycle Club came out to the Memphis VA and held a cookout on the SCI Patio. They cooked for the inpatients, staff and 30 to 40 members of the motorcycle club. The menu was barbeque, baked beans, Hot Dogs, Cheeseburgers, and slaw.

We had a large turnout, outpatients and staff were also welcome to come out and take part. I would encourage all SCI outpatients and chapter members to support the SCI inpatient activities. Here are upcoming chapter events:

**September 1** - Sign up for Grizzlies Tickets.

**September 6** - Lake Enid Fishing Trip

**September 24** - we will hold our Annual SCI Staff Appreciation Cookout.

**October 31** - Halloween Party at the Memphis VA SCI.

**November 11** - Veterans Day Parade in Memphis, TN. For chapter members who live in other cities, please check with local mayor’s office for your Veteran’s Day events.

**December 20** - Christmas Party at the Memphis VA. The Christmas parties for Little Rock, AR., Jackson, MS., and Birmingham, AL., are still in the planning stages. Your local chapter representative will be contacting you as the dates are determined.

I would like to encourage all chapter members to come out and volunteer your time to help make our chapter events the best possible.

Never Give Up!
I would like to begin by giving you a little information about the Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA). The trolley system will be down indefinitely due to recent fires it will be replaced by newly electric accessible buses which were run and ultimate trolley route. Updated maps will be displayed at transit centers and made available to riders as well.

MATA is currently working on a new webpage to better inform customers of schedules, routes, frequently asked questions and even the code of conduct. They are also creating instructional videos covering a wide range of topics from ramp use and paying fares to safety. MATA is looking to make transit riding as easy as possible and increased access to information both online and off. Mata will also be holding how-to workshops at the Benjamin Hooks library.

Funding was approved to run a shuttle bus on the weekends from Hudson Net to the visitor center at Shelby Farms. It was also reported that the shuttle to the Grizzlies games, the U of M basketball games, the Liberty Bowl and Southern Heritage games will be discontinued unless the event sponsors by enough advertising to cover the full cost of the service.

Anyone that would like to have a presentation on fixed route, MataPlus and or the travel training program please contact Betty Anderson - bpetbet@aol.com.

On June 12, 2014 The House Committee on Veterans Affairs held the hearing entitled, “An Examination of Bureaucratic Barriers to Care for Veterans.” The purpose of the hearing was to discuss private-sector practices that can help improve delivery and access to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare system. The first to testify included professionals from healthcare industries who were not medical clinicians but who work in areas of health research and health management systems. Those individuals included President of Humana Government Business, the Chief Operating Officer of the Studer Group, and the Chairman of the Committee to Reduce Infection Deaths.

The committee asked questions regarding ways the VA could improve access to care and timely delivery of care. One of the most notable recommendation was to eliminate variability across the VA healthcare system by ensuring that the same standardized methods are used to schedule and manage veterans healthcare appointments in all VA medical facility. Another recommendation was for the eight leaders to focus less on administrative processes and put more attention on outcomes and how veterans are impacted by policies and procedures. The organizational structure of the VA was also identified as a barrier to timely care, with the panelists comparing VA's multilevel chain of command within departments and facilities, to the private sector's simplified organizational model of directors, managers and subordinates. The panelists and the committee agreed that a cultural shift must take place within the VA to help all Veterans Health Administration (VHA) employees understand that they work for veterans not the VA.
Hello from Birmingham. I am excited to report the BVAMC Annex official groundbreaking ceremony took place on July 7, 2014. Located on 2415 7th Avenue South Birmingham the new annex with completion date Fall of 2015 will add a much needed 50,000 square feet to the BVAMC. In addition it will have a parking deck with 2300 parking spaces eliminating the shuttle ride for many veterans making accessibility to the clinics and other facilities located there much simpler.

When Madame President Cheri Arnold came to Birmingham for our annual Membership meeting I took her on a tour of the hospital to give her an idea of the facilities available to our Alabama members. The beautifully decorated Atrium with the piano playing impressed her as it does all who visit the hospital. She noted the cleanliness of the facility and the friendly helpful attitude of the hospital staff.

We had a good turnout at the membership meeting where Cheri answered member’s questions and concerns about their treatment, medication and equipment. She voiced her support for activities outside of the Memphis area and encouraged our members to become more involved in volunteering. A good time was had by all in attendance.

I am open to suggestion for any activities that you would be interested in and I will try to make the arrangements if it is feasible. I am trying to arrange a fishing trip in Alabama for our members to encourage you to get out of the house and enjoy yourself along with family members. We have an open invitation to go to Bumpers Billiards if that is of interest to our members. It was suggested that we try to go to Camp Sumatanga in Gallant, Alabama. I have gotten information on this facility and I am working on the arrangements to go there.

The chapter has begun its new fiscal year and the BOD has renewed the $75 entertainment allowance for all Alabama. I have gotten information on this facility and I am working on the arrangements to go there.

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To contact me: cell (205) 568-0202 email: rcrowley327@gmail.com

Mark your calendar!

Paralyzed Veterans of America Mid-South Chapter

6th Annual Wheelchair 9-Ball Tournament

Join us October 17th - 18th
At Clicks Billiards
3705 Malco Crossing, Memphis, TN 38125

Call the chapter office at 1-800-767-3018 or email mspva@aol.com for more information.

2014-2015 Educational Scholarship Award Winners

Paralyzed Veteran of America’s (PVA) primary goal has been to assist its members and their families in improving the quality of their lives. This goal has been addressed through a wide variety of activities, including support of programs designed to provide education and training.

PVA established an Educational Scholarship Program to assist PVA members and their immediate families in gaining a post-secondary education.

Full-Time Student Award Winners - $1,000 each

Noah Agne (Xavier University)
Son of Charles Agne - Gateway Chapter

Justin Betts (Georgia Southern University)
Son of Ross Betts, II - Southeastern Chapter

Kelsea Bixler (Cowley County Community College)
Daughter of Gene Bixler - Mid-America Chapter

Jennifer Bond (University of Southern Mississippi)
Daughter of William Bond - Mid-South Chapter

Maya Chatman (Georgia Southern University)
Daughter of Wanda Chatman - Southeastern Chapter

Johannes-Jacobus Crawford (Brigham Young University)
Son of Lawrence Crawford - Mountain States Chapter

Stephanie Dolezal (Virginia Tech)
Daughter of Jeffrey Dolezal - Mid-America Chapter

David Ethridge (Kennesaw State University)
Son of Thomas Hall - Southeastern Chapter

Taleah Foster (North Carolina Central University)
Daughter of Booker Foster - Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Terquan Foster (University of North Carolina at Pembroke)
Son of Booker Foster - Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Ryan Hadley (Baldwin Wallace University)
Son of Brian Hadley - Member At Large

Megan Houlton (Northeastern State University)
Daughter of Dennis Houlton - Mid-America Chapter

John Kazanjian (Purdue University)
Son of Phillip Kazanjian - California Chapter

Keiyana Lee (University of Arizona)
Daughter of Eric Lee - Zia Chapter

Samuel McAuley (College of Charleston)
Son of Joel McAuley - Southeastern Chapter

Katherine Ness (University of Wisconsin - Madison)
Daughter of Kenneth Ness - Wisconsin Chapter

Alexee Nienow (Creighton University)
Granddaughter of Merlin Canfield - North Central Chapter

Barbara Prescott (University at Buffalo)
Daughter of Jonathan Rice - Southeastern Chapter

Marissa Spencer (The College of William and Mary)
Daughter of Timmy Spencer - Mid-America Chapter

Brittney Stever (Kansas Wesleyan University)
Daughter of Mark Stever - Mid-America Chapter

Robert Taylor (Liberty University)
PVA Member - Mid-South Chapter

Christian Trinidad (Valencia College)
Son of Eric Trinidad-Torres - Central Florida Chapter

Jeremiah Wickersheim (University of Wisconsin - Platteville)
Son of Gary Wickersheim - Wisconsin Chapter

Blake Wood (University of Oklahoma)
Son of William “Hodge” Wood - Mid-America Chapter

Son of Lawrence Crawford
Daughter of Dennis Houlton
Kelsea Bixler (Cowley County Community College)
Daughter of Jeffrey Dolezal
Jennifer Bond (University of Southern Mississippi)
Daughter of William Bond
Maya Chatman (Georgia Southern University)
Daughter of Wanda Chatman
Johannes-Jacobus Crawford (Brigham Young University)
Son of Lawrence Crawford
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