



TEXAS CHAPTER PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

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January 2012

Volume 31, Issue 4

"Improving Lives...Building Futures..."

Note from David Fowler, President COMPLACENCY leads to loss. At least in this instance, I'm talking about the real possibility of veterans with an SCI/D and/or veterans in general, just accepting that the benefits or access to medical care as an automatic given. When in reality there are no assurances except change. I believe it becomes real easy for us in general to take for granted all the liberties or freedoms we have. A good example of this is how recently travel pay for appointments is coming under scrutiny and often declined where it was given to us. Believe me, if the VA has their way, they could very easily change the manner of which we receive our healthcare by trying to outsource or have services paid for by **vouchers**. This seems to be a hot topic with our congressional leaders. PVA's Government Relations is watching this and I'm sure it will be addressed in March at the PVA Advocacy/Legislative Seminar. Please note that for change to stop, sometimes action is required and that means not expecting someone else to do it for you. Remember what the government gives, the government can take away. Especially in these economic times.

I'd like to express my sincerest sympathies to the family of Wayne Power and all the friends that knew him. Wayne was a staunch advocate in the Audie L. Murphy VA and also worked closely with our Vice President/Satellite Director in San Antonio. He will be missed. But this brings up an issue related to volunteerism and expecting or assuming that the next guy is here to do it for you. We need our younger members to step up to the plate as some of us older members become ready to pass the torch. If you feel like you're interested in assuming more responsibility, with helping the Chapter move up, please contact the Chapter Office and/or a Board Member in your area. Believe me, we can use the help.

Note from HLO Mike Spurlock, Audie L. Murphy VA—February 29th will be the last day that Norm Hungerford will serve as the National Service Officer for PVA at the Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital. After over 30 years in the Navy and several years as an NSO, Norm has decided to retire and move up north where it snows. I have no idea why anyone would want to do that. Norm has worked hard to be sure our SCI veterans receive the benefits they deserve and we can only hope our next NSO is willing to put in the effort Norm has.

If you have a chance stop by Norm's office and let him know how you feel about the job he's done for you and the PVA members.

Good luck Norm. Enjoy your retirement.

E. Maginot Program

Scope: The Texas Chapter PVA is extremely grateful to Mr. Phillip Maginot for designating the Texas Chapter as a primary recipient for his estate. Mr. Maginot named the Texas Chapter to receive substantial funds. Our Board of Directors chose to honor Mr. Maginot by carefully designating primary use of these funds for membership-related expenses.

Use: TPVA has devised innovative ways of using the monies for the greatest membership benefit. An initial plan covering ten years was crafted that allocated funds in the following manner:

1. Sports: Provide an annual fully paid sports sponsorship in the name of Mr. Maginot to a TPVA member [including an attendant, if eligible] to attend the Winter Sports Clinic [WSC], the National Veterans Wheelchair Games [NVWG], Hunting and Shooting Program, or other organized event.

A. Memorabilia was developed highlighting the sponsorship.

B. WSC/NVWG's The TPVA BOD will, under the direction of the TPVA Sports Director in advance of the WSC, review all submitted WSC applicants for consideration of selection of the Maginot Scholarship [fully paid expenses]. The TPVA BOD shall discuss and select the applicant.

1. Selection consideration can include, but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Open to all regular members of TPVA, excluding BOD members;
 - b. Sports points are not a qualifying factor;
 - c. Member needs to submit a letter of interest to attend and a completed events application prior to the TPVA deadline date for consideration under this program;
 - d. This is applicable only to those who have not or may not have accumulated sufficient points for eligibility;
 - e. The BOD may allow for reasonable deviation of selection criteria to include consideration of members or potential members under unique or extenuating circumstances;
 - f. The Sports Director will inform the applicant of the scholarship and coordinate the forwarding of the Maginot Memorabilia to the applicant prior to event;
 - g. Chapter will publish an announcement in the Chapter Newsletter in the October/November issue for the WSC and in January/February for the NVWG's. Additionally, each notice will include information pertaining to sponsorships for the Hunting and Shooting Program and other organized events available throughout the year.

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
22	23	24	25	BOD TELECON	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1	San Antonio Satellite Member Forum 5 dinner/6 mtg	3
5	6	7	8	9	10
12	13	14	Austin Satellite Member Forum Noon— pending interest	So TX Satellite Member Forum— John Taylor	17
19	PRESIDENT'S DAY PVA/TPVA	MED VA SCI Houston Member Forum – pending interest	22	23	24
26	27	28	29		

SIRE sincerely thanks the hundreds of clients, volunteers, staff, supporters and families that have been such a blessing to us in 2011.

What a joy each of you are!

Please consider becoming more involved with the future of SIRE. Contact us for more information at 281-356-7588 or email us at info@SIRE-htec.org



On Stage!

Co-Chairmen Kim and Don Richards invite you to an evening of Therapeutic Riding Demonstration

Thursday, February 9, 2012
5:00 – 7:30 PM
The Sarofim Stage
Hobby Center
800 Bagby Street
Houston, Texas

Live riding demonstrations on stage by SIRE riders and horses at the top of every hour: 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Appetizers and Cocktails are complimentary



Service Partners Houston Police Department Mounted Patrol will also share equestrian skills and demonstrations on stage.

RSVP REQUIRED

Please call 281-356-7588 x203 or email JoAnn@SIRE-htec.org or visit our web site www.SIRE-htec.org

Garage parking is \$7 and can be accessed from either Rusk Street or Walker Street. Entrance for SIRE: On Stage! is just outside the Walker Street side of the garage, at the well marked "Stage Door" entrance.

It's that time of the year again, where we have rodeo tickets available for our members and their guests.

These tickets are first come, first serve.

At this writing, we have the following still available:

Thursday, March 1	Lady Antebellum at 6:45 p.m.
Monday, March 5	Eli Young Band @ 6:45 P.M.
Wednesday, March 7	Blake Shelton @ 6:45 p.m.
Saturday, March 10	Chris Young @ 3:45 p.m.
Tuesday, March 13	Miranda Lambert at 6:45 p.m.
Wednesday, Mar 14	The Band Perry @ 6:45 p.m.
Sunday, March 18	Alan Jackson @ 3:30 p.m.

Please call 713-520-8782 ext. 4 to reserve your tickets.