



Out Front

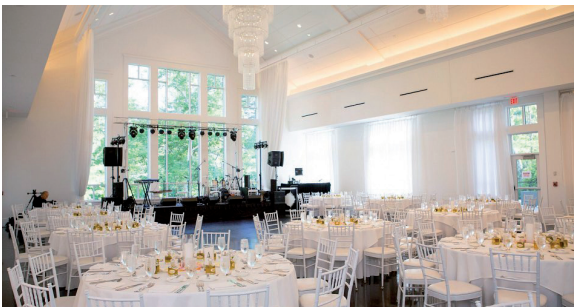
Michael G. Negrete, Chapter President

In preparation for PVA's Fall Board of Directors' meeting in Orlando, FL our Chapter Board unanimously elected Board member Brad Carlson as Chapter National Director to fill the remainder of the term vacated by me to serve as National Vice President.

With Brad's election he was required to attend National Director training at PVA's national office in Washington, D.C. along with the other newly elected National Directors. I attended this training, as well, as a newly elected National Vice President. The training consisted of two days from 8am to 5pm of organizational policies and procedures, department familiarization, and Director responsibilities. There was also time to meet with the other new Directors over dinner to get to know each other better. This all helps to equip and build a cohesive Board ready to serve PVA and move its mission forward.



With Mike Guilbault's resignation from our Chapter Board, I appointed Brad as our new Sports Director. Brad was the Sports Director prior to Guilbault and so has the experience to easily pickup and regrow our sports program offerings. As a sneak peek, we plan to start a billiards tournament, virtual bowling league, curling club and wheelchair football team to mention just a few. Please keep an eye out for Brad's monthly sports columns in coming editions of the Cord Word! If you happen to have a particular sport or activity you're interested in, please let us know by emailing sports@newenglandpva.org. Whatever it takes to get you active, we'll make it happen. If you need funding assistance, please take advantage of your [Chapter Individual Allotment](#). I'm excited to see what Brad is planning for us!



Something else we're planning is our 75th Annual Chapter Membership Banquet. We're hosting this year's Banquet on **Sunday November 7th from 12:00pm to 5:00pm** at the elegant [Lakeview Pavilion](#) located in Foxborough, MA.

This banquet will be an exclusive "Black Tie & White Tablecloth" Gala with a live Band! We encourage every Veteran to proudly wear and medals and decoration you have received.

Ticket sales will be limited to only 125, so please check the Chapter website for details and be the first to get your tickets when they go on sale!

Finally, September 25th would have been Christopher Reeve's 69th birthday. Reeve sustained C1-C2 spinal cord injury when he was thrown from his horse during an equestrian competition. Like many of us, after sustaining a SCI, Reeve went through intense grief. He eventually decided to make the best of his new life. In 1998, he said during an interview:

"Who knows why an accident happens? The key is what do you do afterwards. There is a period of shock and then grieving with confusion and loss. After that, you have two choices. One is to stare out the window and gradually disintegrate. And the other is to mobilize and use all your resources, whatever they may be, to do something positive."

Before his death on October 25, 2004, Reeve went on to found and lead the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation and co-founding the Reeve-Irvine Research Center.

As I have always said though, it doesn't take a big act or large sums of money to make a difference. Just one small act, sharing a moment of your time or donating whatever you can makes a difference. Simply start with one small gesture and let it grow from there. In doing this, together we can all make a difference.

Michael G. Negrete
PVA National Vice President and
New England Chapter President