



Out Front

Michael G. Negrete, Chapter President

If there is a season that emphasizes the sense of family and gathering, it is the Holiday Season! This time of the year brings out the softer and more compassionate side of people. We look to give to those less fortunate through food and toy drives, because have a connection with one-another as community as Chapter members and where we live. Such comfort and nostalgia reinforces my belief that underneath everything dividing us, we simply want the best for each other.

This season also allows us to reflect and give thanks for what we have in our lives. Even while navigating through the challenges of a historic global pandemic, the sense of gratitude is heightened for the opportunity to stay healthy and safe through these tempestuous times. I'm deeply saddened for those families who have experienced loss to COVID and otherwise. I know my words may fall short of expressing my sorrow and effort to comfort you, but know you and loved ones are in my thoughts.

As a Chapter, we are thankful for the partnerships we have developed over the years, as these relationships have allowed us to continue providing programs and services for the benefit of our members. For example, even though COVID has completely restricted the Chapter from entering the VA SCIU at Brockton, MA

we've be able to continue providing our Monthly "Pizza Parties" bringing a little normalcy to their lives during the extremely stressful circumstances limiting their contact to the outside community.

We will continue to look for ways to invest, support and serve our members, whether through programs, projects, and/or membership engagement activities. With new Executive Director Steve Robinson and Sports Director Brad Carlson, please keep an eye out in the coming year for an array expanded and new programs for our members.

I am grateful to be a part of and serve our PVA family because we make each other better. Together, we make a positive difference in the lives of our members and the greater disabled community. And as I always say, it doesn't take much to make this difference. Its simply a matter of showing respect and compassion for each other.

I wish you and your loved ones joy this holiday season and peace and prosperity in the coming new year.

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

