

Great Games GAZETTE

Milwaukee, Wisconsin ~ June 19 – 23, 2007



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National Veterans Wheelchair Games Return to Milwaukee

Join your fellow athletes at the “*Great Games on a Great Lake*,” June 19 to 23, 2007. The 27th National Veterans Wheelchair Games will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on the shores of beautiful Lake Michigan.

Milwaukee was host to the 2nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games back in 1982, so this will be a return visit for longtime athletes. Milwaukee was again chosen to host the Games in recognition of the host medical center’s long-standing tradition of caring for spinal cord injured veterans and its strong partnership with the Wisconsin Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Milwaukee is an outdoor paradise featuring miles of fabulous shoreline – from sandy beaches to woodland retreats. Its historic neighborhoods beckon with colorful cafes, quaint antique shops, and trendy art galleries. The city celebrates its melting pot heritage throughout the year with ethnic and cultural festivals which are colorful tributes to a cherished past. June brings Polish Fest, Lakefront Festival of Arts, Juneteenth Day, and West Allis Western Days. Late June is also the start of Summerfest, the world’s largest music festival according to the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

The Midwest Airlines Center will be the venue for many of the Game’s events, as well as the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. The convention center is three stories tall with an exhibit hall that spans the entire street. Skywalks connect the Center to downtown hotels and shopping.

Between events, you can relax at one of the many microbreweries or tour the Miller Brewing



Company, the only large brewery still operating in the city made famous by its beer. You can also follow the Riverwalk, whose boat docks, pavilions, and promenades give you a bird’s eye view of life on the Milwaukee River.

Athletes, family and friends are encouraged to experience the many museums, architectural landmarks, restaurants, entertainment and casinos available in the area. Our hospitality committee will be happy to provide you with information about where to go and what to do when you’re not competing.

Each day of the Games will feature a special theme: Armed Forces Day, Purple Heart Day, Uniform Day, MIA/POW Day, and a Military History Day. More information will be provided in future newsletters, along with suggestions for ways to participate.

The city of Milwaukee and the members of the local organizing committee look forward to welcoming all of the participating wheelchair athletes to Milwaukee in 2007. Come be a part of the *Great Games on a Great Lake!*

What’s New in MILWAUKEE?

Milwaukee Public Market

This new attraction promotes Wisconsin food and agriculture. The Market provides fresh foods, including locally-grown organic produce, meat, poultry, seafood, cheese and specialty foods.

Discovery World at Pier Wisconsin

Discovery World connects science and technology with exploration, environment and our Great Lakes freshwater resources. The museum features experiential learning through

interactive exhibits, fresh and salt water aquariums, touch tanks, digital theaters and labs.

Bayshore Town Center

This shopping mall, located less than 15 minutes from downtown, has been transformed to a “pedestrian-friendly” Town Center.

The three Amigos of the Games



Affectionately known as the “three amigos,” Brian Walker, Dr. Kenneth Lee, and Dean Martell (pictured above left to right) oversee the 62 separate committees that make up the local organizing committee.

Local Coordinator: Brian Walker has worked for the VA system for more than 20 years, most of that as a recreation therapist on the spinal cord injury unit. Prior to becoming the local coordinator, Walker spent 12 years as the coach and team organizer for the Zablocki VA Medical Center and Wisconsin PVA teams participating in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games and Winter Sports Clinics.

Co-Chair: Dr. Ken Lee is the chief of the spinal cord injury unit, a Wisconsin Army National Guard Colonel, acting state surgeon for National Guard in Wisconsin, an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, a Purple Heart recipient and chief of staff for Region II of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Lee has been part of the national medical team for the Wheelchair Games since 1998.

Co-Chair: Dean Martell is a U.S. Army veteran, healthcare executive, and the medical center’s health systems administrator for the business enterprise program. Martell was involved in the 2nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games when the event was first held in Milwaukee in 1982. He brings his extensive business experience and leadership skills to the 2007 local organizing committee.



Climate

Milwaukee has four distinct seasons. Lake Michigan influences the climate considerably, cooling the city in the warm months and moderating cold temperatures in the winter. The average temperature in June is 77 degrees, but can range from 50 to 90° F.



More than 2500 volunteers are needed for this year’s event. Volunteer opportunities are available in areas such as meals, hospitality, site set-up, sporting events, transportation and many others. You can volunteer as an individual or as a group. Shifts will generally be four to six hours. An orientation will be provided to all volunteers, as well as job-specific training.

Volunteers must be at least 14 years or older. (Anyone 13 or younger must be accompanied by an adult.) This is an excellent opportunity for high school students wishing to obtain community service experience. Volunteer forms are available on the Games website homepage at www.wheelchairgames.org. For more information, contact Denise Jashinsky at (414) 389-3999, or e-mail denise.jashinsky@va.gov.

Volunteers Make it Happen at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games!

27 TO DO IN MILWAUKEE THINGS

- 1. Polish Fest** at Henry Maier Festival Park offers three fun-filled days of strolling minstrels, life-sized legends, continuous music and good food. Runs June 23-25, 2007.
- 2. Summerfest** – celebrate summer at the world’s largest music festival, beginning June 29. This 11-day event features musical entertainment on 10 stages and the lakefront Marcus Amphitheater.
- 3. ComedySportz** is family-appropriate comedy created on-the-spot, using audience suggestions.
- 4. America’s Black Holocaust Museum** chronicles African-American history and captivates visitors with its haunting exhibits and displays.

To be continued...

27th National Veterans Wheelchair Games
www.wheelchairgames.org

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