



Ms. Wheelchair VA Annual Gala Official Announcement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 7, 2018

Fishersville, VA. The Ms. Wheelchair VA Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the annual Gala will take place on Saturday March 24th, 2018. The Gala will be held in the Watson Auditorium at Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) which is located at 243 Woodrow Wilson Ave. in Fishersville, Virginia 22939. The 2018-2019 Ms. Wheelchair Virginia Titleholder will be selected during this live Gala Event.

The Gala starts at 7PM and doors will open to the public at 6:30PM. Admission to the Gala is \$10 which includes a Program Book. WWRC students/staff are admitted free with student I.D., children ages 6-13 are \$3, and children 5 and under are free.

Ms. Wheelchair Virginia (MWVA) was established in 1974 and ran continuously through 1986. The non-profit organization was reestablished in 2001. In 2006 it moved from Richmond to Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center in Fishersville now known as Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center.

MWVA is not a beauty pageant, but instead is an inspirational program dedicated to advocacy and focused on educating the public about the accomplishments, achievements, and needs of individuals with physical disabilities in order to influence attitudinal, architectural, and social change for all Virginians. During her year-long reign, the titleholder will share her platform of advocacy, bring attention to the needs and abilities of the disability community, conduct educational workshops, bring awareness to employment opportunities, and develop relationships with businesses, agencies, and all stakeholders throughout the Commonwealth.

Furthermore, the program's mission is to inspire and motivate Virginians as role models of courage and hope. A female wheelchair user is annually selected as the titleholder to carry out the MWVA mission while representing Virginians with disabilities as well as all Virginians.

To be eligible to become a contestant in the Gala weekend, applicants must meet all of these criteria:

- use a wheelchair/scooter for 100% of daily community mobility
- be a resident of Virginia for at least 6 months
- marital status is not a consideration

Contestants will be judged in the following categories:

- Personal Interviews
- Platform Speech Presentations
- On-stage interviews
- Table of Life Display
- Accomplishments - accomplishments since the onset of disability.
- Communication Skills - includes ability to communicate with the media, public relations and public speaking skills, and advocacy for the disability community.
- Self-Perception - includes poise, demeanor, self-confidence, appropriate attire.

Ms. Wheelchair Virginia, a 501(c)(3), is one of the largest Ms. Wheelchair state program in the country. Focusing on the accomplishments of Virginians with disabilities: the mission is to educate, advocate and raise awareness of the abilities and needs of the disability community; but more importantly, to inspire and motivate Virginians as role models of courage and hope.

Participating in the program provides numerous opportunities that go beyond wearing a crown and sash. Contestants will be able to establish new friendships, see new places, and possibly even discover things about themselves that they never knew existed.



For more information, contact:

Emily McGrail, State Coordinator at emily@mcgrail.com, 540-838-5022,
or visit us at www.mswheelchairva.com

Affiliated with Ms. Wheelchair America