

Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America

2007 Annual Report

Michigan Paralyzed
Veterans of America

40550 Grand River Ave.
Novi, Michigan 48375
(248) 476-9000
www.Michiganpva.org



46 Years of Mission, Service and Results

One great advantage we have as members of the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) is our commitment to our mission. It's written out on page 4 of this FY 07 MPVA Annual Report and I hope you'll take a look at it. It means everything to us. It tells us why we exist as a membership organization, explains our purpose, and uses two specific words to describe how we will accomplish our goals: we will "continue striving". Those two words tell you that we will hold steady to our principles regardless of internal or external change, and that nothing that can shake us from that mission.

Two things that occurred this year at MPVA gave us pause but did not stop us. First, our beloved friend, mentor, and MPVA Associate member Tony Filippis passed away. After a lifetime of advocacy on behalf of people with disabilities, the founder of Wright & Filippis had earned his rest at age 91. For decades he paved a path that many of us could not walk but all of us could follow. If you knew Tony, you know what we lost in his passing; if you didn't know Tony, that was your loss. One thing he left with all of us, whether able-bodied or physically-disabled, is the knowledge that the job is not yet done. It will take all of us working together to create a society where no one is denied a dream due to a disability.

The second thing that gave us pause was quite different: our talented executive, Maurice Jordan, left in March to take a top position in Washington at Paralyzed Veterans of America headquarters. We were delighted for Maurice, whose talent and commitment now have a national impact and whose ambitions for PVA are as great as the mission itself. Fortunately, we had a new leader waiting in the wings: Michael Harris was asked by the Board of Directors to move from his position as Government Relations Director to Executive Director.

These are examples of changes that both close doors and open them. It took a while for us to stop asking "What does Tony think?" or "What does Maurice say?" but we found that the ideals and principles that shaped them are also and in every way, the ones that shape MPVA today. As you will see in this report, it has been a year of commitment to mission, service, and results. Our work is more than the work of any one man; it is the work of a legion of people including the MPVA Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and the donors who put their faith in us to act on their behalf. We have done so and are proud to share with you the results achieved during FY 07.

Sincerely,

Kevin Elya, President

Our FY '07 Mission, Service and Results

Advocacy

MPVA's advocacy starts with education on the rights of Michigan residents with disabilities. We explored the length of the new Detroit Riverwalk to identify, document, and report possible problems. In partnership with the Michigan Secretary of State we continued our interest in making all voting sites accessible and equipped for the voter with disabilities. MPVA initiated meetings with major fuel companies to promote the use of a new Fuel Call system for drivers who require assistance at the gas pump. As of this year, MPVA is now represented on the Community Relations Committee at Providence Park St. John Hospital in Novi which opens in July, 2008. MPVA proudly supports the efforts of Project Ramp, sponsored by the United Way for Southeastern Michigan. Donations and volunteers enabled Project Ramp to construct ramps for 136 area residents. With 300 names on the waiting list for ramps that will change their lives, our work there continues. Throughout the year MPVA pressed on in our pursuit of an accessible stadium at the University of Michigan. This, and other efforts like it, are possible thanks to volunteers who join us in forging ahead on behalf of our members and others with spinal cord injury or dysfunction. Donors also help us as we receive and redistribute mobility items that assist those unable to afford them, such as the wheelchair lift that helped one local mom to load her son's wheelchair into her SUV and opened new worlds for little Joey.



Service Office

Thanks to MPVA's free benefit filling service, Michigan veterans collected \$5,698,978 in new or revised VA benefit payments in FY 07. Trained Service Officers proudly assist any veteran with this free service, whether at the Detroit PVA service office or at VA health centers in Detroit, Ann Arbor, or Battle Creek. Service Officers make special arrangements to work on behalf of veterans at other locations statewide.

Communications

Our magazine "Rollin'Times" is sent to members and friends six times a year. Services available daily include www.ThePumpGuide.com, with its interactive search capabilities that allow disabled drivers to locate gas stations that are ready to provide full service gas assistance at self-service pricing, according to ADA standards. Our website, www.michiganpva.org, is updated regularly with news and information. We're a proud sponsor of the PBS television program "Disabilities Today" seen throughout Michigan and the nation.

Legislation

The State of Michigan heard from MPVA frequently in support of legislation to improve the quality of life for paralyzed veterans and other residents living with disabilities. As state budgets went under heavy scrutiny, MPVA demonstrated the value of PA 91 which educates veterans with service-related disabilities who are small business owners about competing for state business. The state's small investment in staff was more than returned as an annual summary showed \$2,481 million in bids awarded to qualified business owners, a 200% increase over the previous year. Those outstanding results were achieved through education and outreach to veterans statewide. MPVA observed and supported the study of traffic roundabouts built with public funds and the hazards they represent to pedestrians with disabilities. We keep an eye on emerging treatments for spinal cord injury by participating in SCI/D Support Groups at the University of Michigan Spinal Cord Model Care System in Ann Arbor, and at the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan.

Membership

MPVA currently reaches out to 557 members, all honorably discharged veterans with spinal cord injury or dysfunction. We welcome 190 associate members who join

to show solidarity with our mission and to participate in MPVA programs. Veterans with service-related injuries are members for life at no cost to them. Associate members pay a one-time \$50 fee. The Board of Directors is selected from and elected by the members.

Sports and Recreation

MPVA supports adaptive sports programs state-wide, from our sponsorship of the regional Great Lakes Storm quad rugby team to local groups such as Thumb-based Wheelin'Team 457 which conducts seasonal hunting and fishing events in central Michigan. This was MPVA's second year sponsoring the Disability Division of the 30th Detroit Free Press - Flagstar Bank Marathon, attracting volunteers and funding (with our partner Fusion Medical) so that disabled athletes had an equal opportunity to demonstrate their skill and endurance. MPVA supported the annual Michigan Wheelchair Games then applauded as Michigan's team went on to victory at the Ohio Wheelchair events. We were proud to send 10 athletes to Milwaukee for the 27th National Veterans Wheelchair Games sponsored by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Paralyzed Veterans of America. Sponsored activities also included basketball, golf, air rifle, soccer, billiards, track and field, and softball.

Fundraising

Our 4th annual "Salute to Veterans" attracted over 300 attendees to honor all veterans of all eras. MPVA honored the Tuskegee Airmen and presented a check in support of the planned Detroit-based Tuskegee Airmen National Museum. General Motors Vice Chair and USMC veteran Bob Lutz encouraged support for MPVA. Sponsors including Mobility Works and the UAW Region 1 Veterans Council enabled MPVA to earn a profit while also providing free attendance to veterans who could otherwise not afford to attend. Other rewarding activities during the year included our April, 2007 "Michigan Paralyzed Veterans Awareness Week" Open House as vendors provided support for a full-day of public education at our Novi headquarters.



MPVA FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Year end September 30

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
REVENUES		
PVA contributions	\$210,188	\$207,119
State grant	165,700	165,700
Fund raising	796,583	711,029
Contributions	104,454	45,252
Interest income	13,243	8,643
Membership dues	500	450
Other	2,272	928
Total Revenues	<u>1,292,940</u>	<u>1,139,121</u>
EXPENSES		
<i>Program services:</i>		
Membership benefits and services	275,675	310,161
Advocacy and government relations	77,297	88,323
Communications and public relations	<u>60,192</u>	<u>78,684</u>
	<u>413,164</u>	<u>477,168</u>
<i>Support services:</i>		
General and administrative	31,595	39,704
Fund-raising	<u>757,705</u>	<u>661,984</u>
	<u>789,300</u>	<u>701,688</u>
Total Expenses	<u>1,202,464</u>	<u>1,178,856</u>
REVENUES OVER EXPENSES (EXPENSES OVER REVENUES) FROM OPERATIONS BEFORE UNREALIZED GAIN ON INVESTMENTS		
	90,476	(39,735)
UNREALIZED GAIN ON INVESTMENTS	<u>9,397</u>	<u>4,872</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) in UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
	99,873	(34,863)
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS, beginning of year		
	<u>580,186</u>	<u>615,049</u>
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS, end of year	<u>\$680,059</u>	<u>\$580,186</u>



MPVA Officers FY 07

- President.....*Kevin Elya*
- Vice President.....*David Peck*
- Secretary.....*Patrick Adams*
- Treasurer.....*Clark Shuler*
- Director.....*John Dusa*
- Director.....*Kenneth Giorgio*
- Director.....*Quintin Williams*
- Director.....*Dale Weaver*
- Director.....*Scot Severn*
- Director.....*Gary Grubbe*

MPVA Staff

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Michael F. Harris | <i>Executive Director</i> |
| Jan Black | <i>Administrative Assistant</i> |
| R. Sue Dodea | <i>Development & Communications</i> |
| Bonnie Welbaum | <i>Government Relations Director</i> |
| Bonnie Williams | <i>Service Officer</i> |
| Don Swale | <i>Office Maintenance</i> |
| John A. Brezzell | <i>Service Officer</i> |

The mission of the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) is to enhance the lives of veterans with spinal cord injury or disease (SCI/D) as well as all citizens with disabilities, by advocating for civil rights, assuring quality health care, supporting continued research and education, and encouraging independence and healthy living through various health, sports, and recreation programs.

MPVA shall continue striving to remain at the forefront of both veterans’ benefit services and disability rights, while working toward a better quality of life for all American citizens.

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