



Michigan Chapter

The Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) has been working to make a difference in lives of veterans and people with disabilities since 1961. This past year was exciting as we returned to hosting face-to-face events, offering more support to members and friends, and continuing to expand services. I am proud to say that our Chapter continues to flourish and expand. Our work to enhance the quality of life for veterans has been unwavering, as we continue to provide information, advocacy, education, recreation, fellowship, and above all—hope!

When I reflect on our yearly accomplishments, I am reminded of the mission here at the MPVA—we are an organization whose members are, above all, resilient and tough! Our members constantly adapt and demonstrate that they can overcome any obstacle. We have seen our members and community supporters prove this through their desire to be more inclusive and active. The Chapter's new grant opportunities enhanced these endeavors. Our Rollin' Traveler Grant Program, Membership Grant Program, and Sports & Recreation Grant Program directly supported: Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital in expanding their wheelchair softball program, the City of Grand Ledge installation of a fully accessible "We-Go-Swing" at their City Hall Park, and multiple individual sports grants that helped members and friends thrive in adaptive activities.

The Chapter also hosted a variety of events ranging in topic. MPVA's informational webinars on adaptive technologies and accessibility allowed members and a wide range of the public to learn about important topics. We were proud to host several membership events like the one in Frankenmuth, Michigan's Bavarian Wonderland. We also hosted multiple sporting events through our support of Wheelin' Team 457. And our members enjoyed picnics and fundraisers with the Miracle League of Plymouth and the RIM Foundation.

The Chapter is extremely proud to have partnered with the RIM Foundation to relaunch the "**Athletes with Disabilities Hall of Fame**"! The inaugural event was a tremendous success that we look forward to replicating this year.

The Chapter dialed up all of our communications: through our social media posts, newsletters, and membership calls. We truly love communicating more with our members, as well as sending out birthday cards and gift cards! Each call demonstrates that our members are special and deserving.

I know that our Chapter feels extraordinarily thankful for all the support we have received. We had another "*Salute to Veterans Virtual Run, Walk, Wheel*", which proved a worthwhile endeavor, producing approximately \$10,000 of monies that will go directly back to our mission.

We have worked hard to maintain our eight mandated programs of service and are proud to give you a snapshot of those in this Annual Report. I hope you take some time to read through the following pages of this document and see the accomplishments that our friends, families, partners, committees, and members made during FY 2022. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every person that supported the MPVA—you are the reason we are able to continue carrying out our mission!

Sincerely,

*Michael F. Harris,
Chapter President*

2022 Annual Report
Making a difference since 1961!

Fiscal Year 2022

Advocacy & Legislation

The MPVA's Advocacy Program works with congress, federal and state agencies, local communities, and in conjunction with other disability organizations, to ensure that our members and all people with disabilities have equal opportunities to participate in all aspects of American society.

The MPVA addresses the needs of veterans and others who experience spinal cord dysfunction or disabilities through interaction with government at every level. Combining expertise and experience with commitment and energy, the staff at the MPVA seeks to ensure that the needs of our members are considered as public official's debate issues and develop policies. We continue the work to guarantee that benefits and rights of all veterans and citizens with disabilities are protected.

In FY 2022, the MPVA had many accomplishments, some of them include:

- Monitored settlement agreements on numerous civil rights complaints filed in federal court against municipalities throughout southeastern Michigan for violating Title II of the ADA
- Continued to serve on The Senior Alliance Board of Directors where members review existing policies/procedures to determine if they can improve the lives of people with disabilities and to ensure that they can live as independently as possible throughout southern and western Wayne County
- Appointed by Governor Whitmer to serve on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Accessibility Advisory Board
- Informed and educated the public regarding disability rights laws, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and state and local buildings codes
- Worked as a member of the Coalition to Protect Auto No Fault (CPAN) to make sure that the Michigan's auto insurance industry fights to maintain the original no-fault promise it made to Michigan citizens when the law was passed in 1972

Communications

Our newsletter, the "Rollin' Times," is sent to members and friends four times a year. Our website and social media pages bring you up-to-date news and information. Follow us on our website at: www.michiganpva.org or on our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/michiganpva.org.

Veterans Service & Liaison

The veterans benefits program has secured millions in new and current benefits claims for veterans and their survivors thanks to PVA's Service Officers who assisted local veterans with free services in filing or re-filing claims for VA benefits. MPVA reached out to offices in Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Battle Creek.

Sports and Recreation

The MPVA supports many adaptive sports programs statewide. The Chapter participated in local and nationwide programs such as the National Veterans Games and the Detroit Free Press Marathon's Disability Division.

Wheelin' Team 457 was also able to host an array of sporting events at for many of our athletes. We are so proud to support Wheelin' Team 457, which conducts seasonal hunting, fishing, bowling, billiards, and so much more throughout central Michigan.

Membership

The MPVA currently reaches out to 358 members, all honorably discharged veterans with spinal cord injury or disease. We welcome 160 associate members, who join to show their 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 MPVA's Board of Directors is selected from and elected by the members of our Chapter.

Administration

The MPVA is proud to operate out of the Michigan Life Science and Innovation Center (MLSIC) located at: 46701 Commerce Center Dr. in Plymouth. Our location is conveniently located north of metropolitan Detroit between the Detroit VA Medical Center and Ann Arbor VA Medical Center.

Fundraising

The MPVA hosted our 3rd *Salute to Veterans Virtual Run, Walk, Wheel* event raised approximately \$10,000! Sponsors and volunteers of the event included: Bill Helwig, Creative Mobility, Edward Jones, George Googasian, Indian Trails, James Saliba, Littler Mendelson, Michael Harris, Nyman Turkish, RIM Foundation, Sinas Dramis, Wolfson Bolton Kochis.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

	Assets Without Donor Restriction	Assets With Donor Restriction	Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT			
PVA grants	\$ 145,000	\$ -	\$ 145,000
Contributions and other grants	131,950		131,950
In-kind contributions	15,800	-	15,800
Other	8,106	-	8,106
Investment income, net	(225,974)	(27,093)	(253,067)
	<u>74,882</u>	<u>(27,093)</u>	<u>47,789</u>
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>5,000</u>	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	<u>79,882</u>	<u>(32,093)</u>	<u>47,789</u>
EXPENSES			
Program services			
Membership benefits & services	259,892	-	259,892
Advocacy & government relations	42,934	-	42,934
Communication & public relations	53,844	-	53,844
Total Program Services	<u>356,669</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>356,669</u>
Supporting services			
Management and general	21,714	-	21,714
Fundraising	21,023	-	21,023
Total supporting services	<u>42,736</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>42,736</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>399,405</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>399,405</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(319,523)	(32,093)	(351,616)
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	<u>1,272,735</u>	<u>395,440</u>	<u>1,668,175</u>
NET ASSETS, end of year	<u>\$ 953,212</u>	<u>\$ 363,347</u>	<u>\$ 1,316,559</u>

**Audited financial report completed by Schultz & Associates, PLC of Plymouth Michigan dated January 24, 2023.*

Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America
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Non-Profit Organization
Zip+4
U.S. Postage
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Plymouth, MI Permit
No. 245



Michigan Chapter

MPVA Officers FY 22

President.....Michael Harris
Vice PresidentRobert Vance
SecretaryClark Shuler
Treasurer.....Timothy Agajeenian
DirectorRay Brown
DirectorDavid Peck
DirectorScot Severn

MPVA Staff

Jaelyn K. Kochis	Executive Director
Brenda A. Wheeler	Administrative Assistant
Linda K. Highland	Financial Officer
Robin L. Bennett	Development Coordinator

Our Mission...

The mission of the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) is to enhance the quality of life of veterans with spinal cord injury or disease, as well as all citizens with disabilities, by: advocating for civil rights, assuring quality health care, supporting continued recreation, research, education and healthy living.

**Thank You for
Supporting Our Mission!**
www.michiganpva.org