



Michigan Chapter

The Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) has proudly served veterans with spinal cord injury and disease for more than six decades. During Fiscal Year 2025, our Chapter continued to strengthen that legacy through meaningful advocacy, expanded outreach, and programs designed to promote independence, connection, and quality of life for our members across Michigan.

This past year reflected the strength of our community and the dedication of those who support it. Through advocacy and legislative engagement, MPVA remained a consistent voice for veterans and individuals with disabilities at the local, state, and federal levels. Our communications efforts kept members informed and connected through newsletters, digital platforms, and timely outreach. We continued to work closely with the Department of Veterans Affairs and our National Service Officer team to help ensure veterans and their families receive the benefits they have earned.

MPVA also remained committed to building community and fostering wellness. Our Sports and Recreation Program offered adaptive opportunities that encouraged participation, camaraderie, and achievement, including local events and national competition. We were especially proud of our athletes who represented MPVA at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, bringing home medals while demonstrating perseverance, teamwork, and excellence. Membership events throughout the year, highlighted by our Annual Picnic at the Miracle League of Plymouth, provided valuable opportunities for fellowship and connection among members, families, and supporters.

None of this work would be possible without the dedication of our staff, volunteers, partners, and donors. Their ongoing support allows MPVA to deliver programs, advocate effectively, and respond to the evolving needs of veterans with disabilities. This Annual Report offers a snapshot of those efforts and the impact they have made throughout FY 2025.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, thank you for your continued commitment to the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America. Your support strengthens our mission and helps ensure that veterans across our state are empowered, supported, and never forgotten.

Sincerely,

*Scot E. Severn,
Chapter President*

2025 Annual Report
Making a difference since 1961!

Fiscal Year 2025

Advocacy & Legislation

MPVA advances the interests of paralyzed veterans and individuals with disabilities by actively engaging policymakers, government agencies, and community partners at the local, state, and federal levels. Through collaboration with disability organizations and elected officials, MPVA works to promote inclusive policies and equitable access to programs, services, and opportunities.

Advocacy efforts are grounded in both professional expertise and the lived experiences of MPVA members. By maintaining a consistent presence in legislative and policy discussions, MPVA helps ensure that decision-makers understand the real-world impact of proposed laws and regulations. The organization remains committed to safeguarding the rights, benefits, and protections that support independence, accessibility, and quality of life for veterans and citizens with disabilities.

In FY 2025, the MPVA achieved numerous advocacy accomplishments, including:

- PVA Advocacy Week: MPVA staff traveled to Capitol Hill in June to participate in PVA's Advocacy and Legislative Seminar, meeting with Michigan lawmakers to highlight issues impacting our members and to advance legislative initiatives important to veterans with disabilities.
- PVA Awareness Month: MPVA planned and hosted activities throughout April to educate the public about our mission and raise awareness within the community. The month culminated with an MPVA-hosted Awareness Event at the YMCA of Saginaw, featuring VA representatives, PVA Service Officer team, community partners, local adaptive equipment vendors, and informational activities. MPVA members attended and actively participated in efforts to raise awareness within the community.

Veterans Service & Liaison

MPVA works closely with the Department of Veterans Affairs and our PVA National Service Officer (NSO) team to ensure members receive the benefits and services they have earned through their military service. The NSO, located at the Detroit VA Regional Benefit Office, provides expert, no-cost assistance to MPVA members, veterans, dependents, and survivors navigating the VA benefits and claims process.

Through this strong partnership, MPVA serves as a local point of connection and support, coordinating directly with the NSO team to help members initiate, develop, and resolve VA claims. The NSO staff are highly trained and experienced in veterans' benefits and diligently advocate on behalf of those they serve. This collaborative relationship allows MPVA to help connect members with trusted, knowledgeable representation while ensuring continuity of service and advocacy for veterans across the state.

Membership

MPVA hosted a variety of membership-focused events throughout FY 2025, including sports and recreation activities and co-sponsored events with community partners. These efforts culminated in MPVA's Annual Picnic at the Miracle League of Plymouth, a local nonprofit dedicated to inclusive recreation and accessible baseball programs for individuals with special needs and their families. MPVA has partnered with the Miracle League for several years, and the annual picnic, featuring baseball, food, and fellowship, has become a valued opportunity for members, families, and supporters to connect and celebrate community.

MPVA serves a membership of 349 honorably discharged veterans living with spinal cord injury or disease, supported by 147 associate members who share a commitment to the organization's mission and actively participate in MPVA programs. Veterans with service-connected injuries receive lifetime membership at no cost, while associate members join through a one-time membership fee. The MPVA Board of Directors is elected by and from the membership, ensuring that the leadership of the organization remains grounded in the voices and experiences of those it serves.

Fiscal Year 2025

Sports and Recreation

The MPVA Sports and Recreation Program supported and hosted a variety of recreational and adaptive sports opportunities for members throughout FY 2025. These activities promoted wellness, camaraderie, and community engagement while encouraging participation in adaptive sports at both the local and national levels. Key events included a Pickleball event in February, a Billiards Tournament in June, participation in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in July, and baseball outings in August.

MPVA also co-sponsored multiple recreational events in partnership with Wheelin' Team 457, a Michigan-based adaptive recreation organization that provides outdoor adventures such as hunting, fishing, sporting events, and social activities for veterans and individuals with disabilities. MPVA maintains a long-standing partnership with Wheelin' Team 457, regularly collaborating to co-host events and encourage member participation. MPVA members are always welcome at these activities and frequently attend and engage.

In addition, MPVA fielded a medal-winning team at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. MPVA worked closely with VA physicians and recreation therapists to prepare, support, and accompany athletes, ensuring participants were able to compete safely and successfully at the national level. The MPVA team proudly brought home a total of 15 medals: 8 gold, 4 silver, and 3 bronze.

Administration

MPVA operates from the Michigan Life Science and Innovation Center (MLSIC), located in Plymouth, MI. This centrally located facility provides convenient access between metropolitan Detroit and Ann Arbor, including both the Detroit and Ann Arbor VA Medical Centers, supporting collaboration and accessibility for members and partners.

The day-to-day operations of MPVA are managed by two full-time staff members, supported by a dedicated network of both new and long-standing volunteers. Many volunteers have served the organization for decades, contributing invaluable experience and continuity. Together, staff and volunteers play a critical role in advancing MPVA's mission and ensuring the effective delivery of programs and services to members.

Communications

MPVA engages members, partners, and the broader community through multiple communication channels, including its quarterly newsletter, website, and social media platforms. The *Rollin' Times* newsletter is mailed and emailed to members and associate members, shared electronically with friends and community partners, and posted on the MPVA website. Through these channels, MPVA provides organizational updates, promotes MPVA and partner events, shares time-sensitive information, and highlights local, state, and federal opportunities relevant to veterans with disabilities.

MPVA's digital presence includes:

- **Website:** www.michiganpva.org
- **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/michiganpva
- **Instagram:** www.instagram.com/michiganpva
- **LinkedIn:** www.linkedin.com/company/michigan-paralyzed-veterans-of-america

Fundraising

MPVA's programs and services are made possible through the generosity of individual donors, community supporters, partner organizations, and charitable contributions. These gifts, including donations and planned giving, provide essential funding that allows MPVA to sustain its mission and respond to the evolving needs of paralyzed veterans across Michigan.

Throughout FY 2025, MPVA engaged in fundraising efforts designed to support core programs, member services, advocacy initiatives, and outreach activities. Funds raised directly contributed to programming that promotes independence, access to benefits, adaptive recreation, and community engagement for veterans living with spinal cord injury or disease.

Beyond financial support, fundraising efforts also serve as an opportunity to raise awareness and build lasting relationships within the community. Through special events, sponsorships, and individual contributions, supporters demonstrated a shared commitment to improving quality of life for veterans with disabilities. Partnerships with local businesses and organizations continue to play a vital role in strengthening MPVA's capacity to deliver meaningful programs and long-term support to its members.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	Assets Without Donor Restriction	Assets With Donor Restriction	Total
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents (Note 2)	\$ 28,109	\$ -	\$ 28,109
Investments (Note 3)	1,050,734	404,329	1,455,063
Prepaid Expenses	2,260	-	2,260
Inventory (Note 9)	8,124	-	8,124
Total Current Assets	<u>1,089,227</u>	<u>404,329</u>	<u>1,493,556</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Property and Equipment (Note 4)	30,813	-	30,813
Accumulated Depreciation (Note 4)	(30,813)	-	(30,813)
Operating Lease - ROU Assets (Note 10)	370	-	370
Total Non-Current Assets	<u>370</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>370</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 1,089,597</u>	<u>\$ 404,329</u>	<u>\$ 1,493,926</u>
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	\$ 4,744	\$ -	\$ 4,744
Deferred Revenue	12,167	-	12,167
Operating Lease Liability (Note 10)	556	-	556
Total Current Liabilities	<u>17,467</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,467</u>
NET ASSETS			
Without Donor Restrictions	1,072,130	-	1,072,130
With Donor Restrictions (Note 7)	-	404,329	404,329
Total Net Assets	<u>1,072,130</u>	<u>404,329</u>	<u>1,476,459</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 1,089,597</u>	<u>\$ 404,329</u>	<u>\$ 1,493,926</u>

**Audited financial report completed by Alan C. Young & Associates dated January 31, 2025.
To request a copy of the Chapter's financial statement, please contact Brian VanSingel at:
bvansingel@michiganpva.org*

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL “Mike” HARRIS

**President and Former Executive Director
Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America**



Michael “Mike” Harris was a leader, advocate, and friend whose impact on the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America spans decades. Mike served the Chapter with unwavering dedication as both the Executive Director and later our President, becoming the public face and steady voice of MPVA for many years.

Mike’s journey with MPVA began in 1996 and evolved into more than twenty years of service to veterans and individuals with disabilities. A United States Marine Corps veteran, Mike served from 1975 to 1979. In 1986, he sustained a spinal cord injury in an automobile accident, an event that reshaped his life and deepened his commitment to advocacy. Rather than allowing his injury to define him, Mike chose to transform adversity into purpose, devoting his career to improving accessibility, protecting civil rights, and strengthening communities.

Throughout his tenure, Mike was widely respected as a knowledgeable and tireless advocate. He worked on landmark civil rights and accessibility efforts at both the state and federal levels, served on numerous advisory boards and committees, and was frequently called upon to lend his expertise on disability policy, barrier-free design, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. His leadership helped shape policies and practices that continue to benefit veterans and individuals with disabilities across Michigan and beyond.

Mike’s legacy lives on through the programs he strengthened, the barriers he helped dismantle, and the countless lives he touched through his advocacy and friendship. MPVA honors his memory with gratitude and respect, and we remain committed to carrying forward the mission and values he championed so passionately.

Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America
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Plymouth, MI 48170

Non-Profit Organization
Zip+4
U.S. Postage
PAID
Plymouth, MI Permit
No. 245



MPVA Officers FY 25

President.....Scot Severn
Vice PresidentRobert Vance
SecretaryClark Shuler
Treasurer.....Timothy Agajeenian
DirectorRay Brown
DirectorDavid Peck
DirectorMonica Munir

MPVA Staff

Brian J. VanSingel Executive Director
Brenda A. Wheeler Administrative Assistant
Linda K. Highland Financial Officer

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