

Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America

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Veterans of America

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



This year, 2013, marks the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America's (MPVA) 53rd year of service in Michigan with the goal of enhancing the quality of life of tens of thousands veterans by providing services, information, advocacy, education, recreation, fellowship, and above all—hope!

Our past Fiscal Year has been one filled with great strides as we have worked to better serve Michigan's disabled community. From working with Department of Justice (DOJ) to make certain that entertainment venues and municipalities are in compliance with accessibility guidelines; to once again being appointed by the Governor to serve on Michigan Barrier Free Design Board and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Accessibility Advisory Board; to once again sponsoring the Detroit Free Press Marathon Wheelers and Hand Cyclists Division—these are just a few of the accomplishments that the MPVA achieved in FY 2013.

As I reflect back on FY 2013, I know that our Chapter feels extraordinarily thankful for all of the support we have received. This year's Annual Salute to Veterans Gala and Awareness Day were among the most successful the MPVA has ever seen. We were also able to visit with our membership at our Annual Picnic over the summer and our Annual Holiday Party this past winter.

I hope you take some time to read through the following pages of this report and see the accomplishments that our friends, families, partners, committees, and members made during FY 2013. 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,

Kevin G. Elya, President

2013 Annual Report

Celebrating 53 Years of Service

Fiscal Year 2013

Advocacy & Legislation

The MPVA's Advocacy Program works with Congress, federal and state agencies, local communities, and in coalition 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 other 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 and guarantee that benefits and rights of all veterans and citizens with disabilities are protected.

In FY 2013, the MPVA had many accomplishments, some of them include:

- Advised the Michigan Department of Transportation to ensure that they are properly installing "public right-of-ways" under Michigan accessibility codes.
- 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 Delta Airlines Customer Advisory Board on Disabilities where members quarterly review existing policies/procedures to see if they can be improved upon so people with disabilities can have an enjoyable flying experience.
- The Department of Justice (DOJ) settled an ADA Civil Rights complaint filed by the MPVA against the Palace of Auburn Hills.
- Appointed by the Governor to represent the Michigan Barrier Free Design Board where we review Michigan barrier free design and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Accessibility Advisory Board.

- Informed and educated the public to regard to disability rights laws, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and state and local buildings codes.
- Continue to monitor the University of Michigan to ensure that the renovations taking place at Michigan Stadium are done so in compliance with settlement agreement.
- Reviewed architectural drawings of the Cobo Hall Center expansions to ensure that the renovations taking place are in compliance with federal/state accessibility guidelines.
- Work to preserve Michigan's model no-fault insurance system and to make sure that the Michigan auto insurance industry keeps the original no-fault promise it made to Michigan citizens.

Communications

Our newsletter, the "Rollin' Times," is sent to members and friends six times a year. Additionally, we provide services that are available on a daily basis that include: The Pump Guide at www.ThePumpguide.com, with its interactive search capabilities that allow disabled drivers to locate 1,000 Michigan gas stations that are ready to provide full services assistance at self-service pricing. Our website, www.Michiganpva.org, which is updated regularly with news and information. We are a proud sponsor of the PBS television program "A Wider World" seen throughout Michigan and the Nation.

Veterans Benefits Department

\$9 million was paid directly to Michigan households thanks to MPVA's Service Officers who assisted local veterans with free services in filing or re-filing claims for VA benefits. MPVA reaches out from offices in Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Battle Creek.

Sports and Recreation

The MPVA supports many adaptive sports programs state-wide. FY 2013 brought forth many more exciting sports and recreational moments and milestones. This year also marked the Chapter's 8th year co-sponsoring the Disability Division of the *Detroit Free Press Marathon*. MPVA sponsored: veterans attending the 32nd National Veterans Games, the Michigan Sports Unlimited Rugby Tournament, the Brain Injury Association of Michigan "Tips Up for Troops" Charity Bass tournament, the Athletes with Disabilities Hall of Fame Dinner, and the 6th Annual "Thunder in the Valley" Games hosted by the Michigan Sports Unlimited which were held in June of this year and all ages and levels of disabilities were welcomed to participate—to name just a few!

From our sponsorship of the regional Great Lakes Storm quad rugby team, to the local groups such as Thumb-based Wheelin' Team 457, which conducts seasonal hunting and fishing events in central Michigan, the MPVA was able to reach out across the state supporting recreation activities.

Membership

MPVA currently reaches out to 494 members, all honorably discharged veterans with spinal cord injury or dysfunction. We welcome 229 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. MPVA's Board of Directors is selected from and elected by the members of our Chapter.





FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Year end September 30

	(unaudited) 2013	(unaudited) 2012
REVENUES		
Fundraising	274,887	92,832
PVA Contributions	141,250	175,004
State Grant	112,140	129,600
Contributions	86,167	109,194
Interest Income	15,308	16,133
	7,266	0
Total Revenue	<u>637,018</u>	<u>522,763</u>
EXPENSES		
Program Services:		
Membership Benefits and Services	299,181	326,927
Advocacy And Government Relations	4,661	8,098
Communications	53,288	55,439
	<u>357,130</u>	<u>390,464</u>
Support Services:		
General and Administrative	94,014	66,738
Fund Raising	257,753	109,267
	<u>351,767</u>	<u>176,005</u>
Total Expenses	<u>708,897</u>	<u>566,469</u>
Expenses over Revenue from Operations before Net		
Realized and Unrealized (Loss) Gain on Investments	(71,879)	(43,706)
NET REALIZED GAIN ON INVESTMENTS	21,290	1,704
NET UNREALIZED (LOSS) GAIN ON INVESTMENTS	13,054	65,689
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	<u>(37,535)</u>	<u>23,687</u>
NET ASSETS, beginning of the year	833,026	809,339
NET ASSETS, end of year	<u>795,491</u>	<u>833,026</u>

Fundraising

Our 10th Annual "Salute to Veterans Gala," MPVA's largest annual fundraiser, attracted well over 250 attendees who honored veterans from all eras. Sponsors and volunteers of the event included: 21st Century Oncology, American House Senior Living, Associated Community Services, Bath For All, LLC, Benjamin Swain, Brain Injury Association of Michigan, Clark Shuler, Delilah's Deli, DTE Energy, Evangelical Homes of Michigan, Foundation for American Veterans, Health Partners, Jeff Panko, International Union-UAW Region 1, Karen Christon, USAF (Ret.), Legal Help for Veterans, PLLC, Littler Mendelson, Milford Post 216, Mocer Industries, NuStep, Origami Brain Injury Center, Patty Soma, Providence Hospital, Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan, S.T.A.R. Rehab, Steven Cohen, Strive RTS, SWOCC Studios, Tom Davis, The Sam Bernstein Law Firm, Varsity Lincoln, Walk the Line to SCI Recovery, Wright and Filippis

Another rewarding activity that took place in FY 12 included MPVA's Awareness Day during "PVA Awareness Week" where vendors provided support for a full-day of public education at our Novi headquarters. This event brought forth generous contributions from our friends with The Rollin' Thunder Inc. FY 2013 was also positively influenced by the support of MPVA's Advisory Committee. The committee served as an active part of the planning and implementation of each of MPVA's fundraising events. Thank you to each and every contributor in FY 2013!

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Linda K. Highland	Financial Officer
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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.

www.Michiganpva.org



53 Years of Mission, Service and Results.