

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, 2014, marks the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America's (MPVA) 54th 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 2014.

As I reflect back on FY 2014, 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 2014. 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

2014 Annual Report

Celebrating 54 Years of Service

Fiscal Year 2014

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 2014, 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.
- 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.
- Consulted with the Detroit Red Wings to ensure their new arena is in compliance with federal/state guidelines

- 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.
- Worked 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 four 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.

Veterans Benefits Department

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

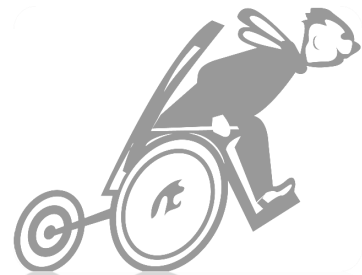
Sports and Recreation

The MPVA supports many adaptive sports programs state-wide. FY 2014 brought forth many more exciting sports and recreational moments and milestones. This year also marked the Chapter's 9th year co-sponsoring the Disability Division of the *Detroit Free Press Marathon*. MPVA sponsored: veterans attending the 33rd 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 7th 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 461 members, all honorably discharged veterans with spinal cord injury or dysfunction. We welcome 231 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

	(audited) 2014	(audited) 2013
REVENUES		
PVA Contributions	155,345	141,250
State Grant	36,450	112,140
Contributions	254,828	361,054
Interest Income	28,524	15,308
In-kind Contributions	123,891	0
Other	2,393	7,266
	601,431	637,018
EXPENSES		
Program Services:		
Member Benefits & Services	305,222	299,181
Advocacy & Government Relations	4,264	4,661
Communications	36,930	53,288
	346,416	357,130
Support Services:		
General & Administrative	86,023	94,014
Fund Raising	165,440	257,753
	251,463	351,767
Total Expenses	597,879	708,897
NET ASSETS, Beginning of the Year	766,320	833,026
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	769,872	795,491

Fundraising

Our 12th 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: Action Track Wheelchair, Associated Community Services, Bath For All, Bill Helwig, Brain Injury Association of Michigan, Carol Ann Fausone, Clark Shuler, Don Woodworth, DTE Energy, Eisenhower Center, Foundation for American Veterans, George Smith, Health Partners, Indian Trails, Legal Help for Veterans, Mans Lumbar Company, Mocerri Industry, New Horizons, NuStep, Origami, Patty Soma, Providence Hospital, Public Service Credit Union, Quality Home Medical, Rehab Institute of Michigan, Steve Cohen, Strenth Training and Recovery, SWOCC, The Sam Bernstein Law Firm, The Recovery Project, UofM Department of Physical Medicine, Walk the Line to SCI Recovery, Wright and Filippis.

Another rewarding activity that took place in FY 14 included MPVA’s Awareness Day during “PVA Awareness Week” where vendors provided support for a full-day of public education at our Novi headquarters. FY 2014 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 2014!

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Brenda A. Wheeler	Administrative Assistant
Jaelyn K. Kochis	Deputy E.D./Development
Bonnie J. Williams	Service Officer
Linda K. Highland	Financial Officer
Willie J. DeBerry	Maintenance

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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54 Years of Mission, Service and Results.