



# Paralyzed Veterans of America

## 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 year, 2015, is no different! The MPVA has worked to enhance 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; and our continued sponsorship of the Detroit Free Press Marathon Wheelers and Hand Cyclists Division—these are just a few of the accomplishments that the MPVA achieved in FY 2015.

As I reflect back on FY 2015, 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 extremely successful! 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 2015. 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,

*David Peck, President*

# 2015 Annual Report

Making a difference since 1961...

# Fiscal Year 2015

## 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 2015, 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 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
- Supported the Michigan Regional Future City Competition by presenting the "Best City of People with Disabilities Award" to middle aged students

- Informed and educated the public to regard to disability rights laws, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and state and local buildings codes
- Filed lawsuits in federal court against Oakland Township for violations of the Fair Housing Act under the ADA and against Washtenaw County, MDOT and Pittsfield Township for violations of the ADA
- Reviewed architectural drawings of the Cobo Hall Center expansions to ensure that the renovations taking place are in compliance with federal and state accessibility guidelines
- Worked to preserve Michigan's model auto no-fault system and to make sure that the Michigan's auto insurance industry keeps 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. Additionally, we provide services that are available on a daily basis that include: The Pump Guide at [www.ThePumpguide.com](http://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](http://www.Michiganpva.org), which is updated regularly with news and information.

## Veterans Service & Liaison

The 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 2015 brought forth many more exciting sports and recreational moments and milestones. This year also marked the Chapter's 10th year co-sponsoring the Disability Division of the *Detroit Free Press Marathon*. MPVA sponsored: veterans attending the 34rd National Veterans Games, the Michigan Sports Unlimited Rugby Tournament, the Brain Injury Association of Michigan "Tips Up for Troops" Charity Bass tournament, and the 8th 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

The MPVA currently reaches out to 456 members, all honorably discharged veterans with spinal cord injury or dysfunction. We welcome 153 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.

## Administration

The MPVA is proud to own the building in which the Chapter operates out of located at: 40550 Grand River Ave in Novi. Our location is conveniently located north of metropolitan Detroit between the Detroit VA Medical Center and Ann Arbor VA Medical Center.



## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Year end September 30

	(audited) 2015	(audited) 2014
<b>REVENUES</b>		
PVA Contributions	163,918	155,345
State Grant	124,705	36,450
Contributions	454,408	254,828
Investment Income	-25,439	28,524
In-kind Contributions	78,835	123,891
Other	5,782	2,393
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>802,209</b>	<b>601,431</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Program Services:</b>		
Member Benefits & Services	446,449	305,222
Advocacy & Government Relations	13,011	4,264
Communications	35,893	36,930
	<b>495,353</b>	<b>346,416</b>
<b>Support Services:</b>		
General & Administrative	70,472	86,023
Fund Raising	186,981	165,440
	<b>257,453</b>	<b>251,463</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>752,806</b>	<b>597,879</b>
NET ASSETS, Beginning of the Year	769,872	766,320
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<b>819,275</b>	<b>769,872</b>

### Fundraising

Our 13th 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, Amazing Grace Home Care Inc., BFA, BIAMI, BOS Tent Rental, Camp Liberty, Clark Shuler, Cohen, Lerner & Rabinowitz, C.W. Helwig II, DG Foundation, DTE Energy, Eisenhower Center, Foundation for American Veterans, Googasian Law Firm, Health Partners, Indian Trails, ITC Holdings, Jason Turkish, Kroger, Littler, Moceri, NuStep, Providence Hospital, Quality Home Medical, Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan, Sam Bernstein Law Firm, Sinas Dramis, STAR Rehab, SWOCC Studios, Walk the Line to SCI Recovery, Wright & Filippis

Another rewarding activity that took place in FY 15 included MPVA’s Awareness Day during “PVA Awareness Week” where vendors provided support for a full-day of public education. FY 2015 was also positively influenced by the support of local sponsorships and grants from the Kroger Foundation, ITC Holdings, and Others First! The MPVA would like to thank each and every person and organization that was able to contribute in FY 2015!



**Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America**  
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## Paralyzed Veterans of America

Michigan Chapter

### MPVA Officers FY 15

President.....David Peck  
Treasurer.....Timothy Agajeenian  
Secretary .....Clark Shuler  
Director .....John Dusa  
Director .....Teresa Kamphorst  
Director .....Scot Severn  
Director .....Robert Vance

### MPVA Staff

Michael F. Harris	Executive Director
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.

[www.Michiganpva.org](http://www.Michiganpva.org)