



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 past year, 2016, was no different! The MPVA worked to enhance the quality of life of tens of thousands of veterans by providing services, information, advocacy, education, recreation, fellowship, and above all—hope!

Our past Fiscal Year was one filled with great strides engaging and serving Michigan's veteran and disabled community. From working with the Detroit Red Wings to make certain that their new entertainment venue will be in compliance with accessibility guidelines; to once again being appointed by the Governor to serve on Michigan Barrier Free Design Board; participating in the Michigan Veterans Coalition as a Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency grantee; 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 2016.

As I reflect back on FY 2016, 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 2016. 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, Chapter President

2016 Annual Report

Making a difference since 1961...

Fiscal Year 2016

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 and guarantee that benefits and rights of all veterans and citizens with disabilities are protected.

In FY 2016, 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
- Oversaw a successful outcome from a lawsuit filed in federal court against Oakland Township for violations of the Fair Housing Act under the ADA
- File a lawsuit against Washtenaw County, MDOT and Pittsfield Township for violations of the ADA
- 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, 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 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 2016 brought forth many more exciting sports and recreational moments and milestones. This year also marked the Chapter's 11th year co-sponsoring the Disability Division of the *Detroit Free Press Marathon*. MPVA sponsored: veterans attending the 36th National Veterans Games, the Michigan Sports Unlimited Rugby Tournament, the Brain Injury Association of Michigan "Tips Up for Troops" Charity Bass tournament, and the 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 428 members, all honorably discharged veterans with spinal cord injury or dysfunction. We welcome 168 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

	2016			2015
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Support and Revenue				
Contributions	\$ 356,299	\$ -	\$ 356,299	\$ 454,408
Investment income	42,580	-	42,580	(19,457)
In-kind donations	60,064	-	60,064	78,835
State grants	130,924	-	130,924	124,705
PVA grant	158,100	-	158,100	163,918
Fundraising	1,000	-	1,000	-
Other	42,107	-	42,107	5,782
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>108,876</u>	<u>(108,876)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total support and revenue	899,950	(108,876)	791,074	808,191
Expenses				
Program services				
Membership and benefits	392,040	-	392,040	441,724
Public affairs	55,545	-	55,545	49,176
Research	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>500</u>
Total program services	448,585	-	448,585	491,400
Support services				
General and administration	90,215	-	90,215	70,980
Fundraising	<u>309,604</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>309,604</u>	<u>196,408</u>
Total support services	399,819	-	399,819	267,388
Total expenses	848,404	-	848,404	758,788
Change in net assets before extraordinary income	51,546	(108,876)	(57,330)	49,403
Extraordinary income	<u>-</u>	<u>400,000</u>	<u>400,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Change in net assets after extraordinary income	51,546	291,124	342,670	49,403
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>710,399</u>	<u>108,876</u>	<u>819,275</u>	<u>769,872</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 761,945</u>	<u>\$ 400,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,161,945</u>	<u>\$ 819,275</u>

Fundraising

Our Annual “Salute to Veterans Gala,” MPVA’s largest annual fundraiser, attracted well over 200 attendees who honored veterans from all eras. Sponsors and volunteers of the event included: Bath For All, LLC, Brain Injury Association of Michigan, Bill Helwig, Camp Liberty, DTE Energy, Eisenhower Center, Foundation for American Veterans, Googosian Law Firm, Gresham Driving Aids, Health Partners Homecare, HVPC LCC, Indian Trails, Littler Mendelson, Mocerri Industries, Morgan Stanley, NuStep, Nyman Turkish, OLSHA, Providence Hospital, Quality Home Medical, Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan, Sinas Dramis, STAR Rehab, Steven Cohen, Transitions Remodeling, The Sam Bernstein Law Firm, The Suburban Collection Showplace, Walk the Line to SCI Recovery

Another rewarding activity that took place in FY 16 included MPVA’s Awareness Day during “PVA Awareness Week” where vendors provided support for a full-day of public education. FY 2016 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 2016!

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Our Mission...

The mission of the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) is to enhance the quality of lives 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!**