



# 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, 2019, 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 extraordinarily exciting as we have been able to take advantage of new office space and build upon new and existing relationships with our partners and supporters. We were able to hire an intern who has helped the Chapters goal in rebranding our website “the Pump Guide” which will launch in spring of 2020!

FY 2019 was filled with great strides engaging and serving Michigan’s veteran and disabled community. From the success of our athletes at the Nation Veterans Wheelchair Games to our continued sponsorship of the Detroit Free Press Marathon Wheelers and Hand Cyclists Division to ensuring that we meet more regularly with the leadership at our local VA hospitals—these are just a few of the accomplishments that the MPVA achieved in FY 2019.

As I reflect back on this past Fiscal Year, I know that our Chapter feels extraordinarily thankful for all of the support we have received. This years Annual Salute to Veterans event and our 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 2019. 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,

*Michael Harris,  
Chapter President*

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## 2019 Annual Report

**Making a difference since 1961...**

# Fiscal Year 2019

## 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 2019, the MPVA had many accomplishments, some of them include:

- 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 The Senior Alliance Board of Directors where members review existing policies/procedures to see if they can be improved upon the lives of people with disabilities and ensure that they can live as independently as possible through out southern and western Wayne County
- Appointed by Governor Whitmer to serve on the Michigan Department Natural Resources Accessibility Advisory Board
- 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 regarding disability rights laws, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and state and local buildings codes
- Continued to make progress from the Oakland Township Settlement—an agreement that will ensure that veterans with disabilities are granted the possibility to live in a newly built, state of the art, living opportunity.
- Worked as a member of the Coalition to Protect Auto No Fault (CPAN) to safeguard the integrity of Michigan's auto no-fault system is maintained 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 Michigan gas stations that are ready to provide full services assistance at self-service pricing Our website and social media pages bring you up-to-date 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 PVA'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 2019 brought forth many more exciting sports and recreational moments and milestones. This year also marked the Chapter's 14th year sponsoring the Disability Division of the *Detroit Free Press Marathon*. MPVA sponsored: veterans attending the 39th National Veterans Games, the Michigan Sports Unlimited Rugby 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 397 members, all honorably discharged veterans with spinal cord injury or dysfunction. We welcome 228 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 of to operate our Chapter out of the Michigan Life Science and Innovation Center (MLSIC) located at: 46701 Commerce Center in Plymouth. Our location is conveniently located north of metropolitan Detroit between the Detroit VA Medical Center and Ann Arbor VA Medical Center.

**MICHIGAN PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2019**

	Assets Without Donor Restriction	Assets With Donor Restriction	Total
<b>REVENUE AND SUPPORT</b>			
PVA grants	\$ 142,290	\$ -	\$ 142,290
Contribution	94,402	-	94,402
In-kind contributions	22,953	-	22,953
Other	7,335	-	7,335
Investment income, net	17,957	12,730	30,687
	<u>284,936</u>	<u>12,730</u>	<u>297,666</u>
Net assets released from restrictions	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT</b>	<u>284,936</u>	<u>12,730</u>	<u>297,666</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program services			
Membership benefits & services	227,242	-	227,242
Advocacy & government relations	41,354	-	41,354
Communication & public relations	49,674	-	49,674
Total Program Services	<u>318,270</u>	-	<u>318,270</u>
Supporting Services			
Management and general	20,213	-	20,213
Fundraising	27,542	-	27,542
Total Supporting Services	<u>47,755</u>	-	<u>47,755</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<u>366,025</u>	-	<u>366,025</u>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	(81,089)	12,730	(68,359)
<b>NET ASSETS, beginning of year</b>	<u>1,241,224</u>	<u>398,425</u>	<u>1,639,649</u>
<b>NET ASSETS, end of year</b>	<u>\$ 1,160,135</u>	<u>\$ 411,155</u>	<u>\$ 1,571,290</u>

### **Fundraising**

Our Annual "Salute to Veterans," MPVA's largest annual fundraiser, attracted approximately 200 attendees who honored veterans from all eras. Sponsors and volunteers of the event included: Ascension Health, Brain Injury Association of Michigan, Brooke Mills, Bryan Berent, Clark Shuler, Darrel Quinn, Eisenhower Center, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, Fusion, The Googolian Law Firm, Health Partners, Indian Trails, John Anderson, Judy Tuttle, Legal Help for Veterans, Littler Mendleson, Michael Harris, Mocerri, Morgan Stanley, NuStep, Nyman Turkish, Origami Rehab, Quality Home Medical, Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan, Sinas Dramis, Suburban Collection Showplace, Tim and Sally Agajeenian, Todd Wenzel, Walk the Line.

Another rewarding activity that took place in FY 19 included MPVA's Open House after our move to our new location in Plymouth where many of our members and supporters joined us for an afternoon of fellowship and fun. FY 2019 was also positively influenced by the support of the Plymouth Miracle League who graciously opens their field, and fully accessible pavilion, to our members! The MPVA would like to thank each and every person and organization that was able to contribute in FY 2019!

**Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America**  
46702 Commerce Center Drive  
Plymouth, MI 48170

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## **Paralyzed Veterans of America**

**Michigan Chapter**

### **MPVA Officers FY 19**

President.....Michael Harris  
Vice President .....Robert Vance  
Treasurer.....Timothy Agajeenian  
Secretary .....Clark Shuler  
Director .....Ray Brown  
Director .....David Peck  
Director .....Scot Severn

### **MPVA Staff**

Jaclyn K. Kochis                      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 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!**