



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, 2020, was undoubtedly different as the Chapter tackled a pandemic.

Despite spending nearly six months of our Fiscal Year in a modified operational state due to Covid-19, the Chapter is proud to say that it worked very hard to continue to enhance the quality of life of tens of thousands veterans by providing services, information, advocacy, education, recreation, fellowship, and above all—hope!

While we are living in these challenging times, I am reminded of what our mission stands for at the MPVA—we are an organization whose members are, above all, resilient and tough! Our members constantly adapt and that is precisely what we did this year!

The Chapter used the unique circumstance of the pandemic to reach out to our members via home check in calls and the mailing of care packages to homes that included Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies that included: masks, sanitizers, and autonomic dysreflexia information. We also hosted a variety of virtual events that ranged in topic, including: informational telehealth, wheelchair exercise classes, trivia, and much more! I was also pleased to see a few outdoor sporting events take place at a healthy social distance through our support of Wheelin' Team 457. The Chapter dialed up all of our communications whether it was through our social media posts, newsletter, or membership calls. We found that communicating more with our members was most surely the silver lining of the challenges we faced this year.

As I reflect back, I know that our Chapter feels extraordinarily thankful for all of the support we have received. This year's annual *Salute to Veterans* event took place in the form of a virtual "Run, Walk, Wheel." I was so impressed by the success of this first time event and was astounded by the amount of individuals and businesses who participated.

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 2020. 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 F. Harris,
Chapter President*

2020 Annual Report
Making a difference since 1961!

Fiscal Year 2020

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.

While working in a virtual state this year, 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 2020, 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
- Informed and educated the public regarding disability rights laws, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and state and local buildings codes
- Worked as a member of the Coalition to Protect Auto No Fault (CPAN) to make sure that the Michigan's auto insurance industry fights to maintain 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. Our website and social media pages bring you up-to-date news and information. Follow us on our website at: www.michiganpva.org or on our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/michiganpva.

Veterans Service & Liaison

The veterans benefits program 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 2020 brought forth a unique time for our sports and recreation program as the Chapter had to ensure safe social distance and the health of our members. While many of our traditional sporting events were canceled, the Chapter participated in local and nationwide programs in virtual formats, such as the 40th National Veterans Games.

Wheelin' Team 457 was also able to host a few outdoor sporting events at a safe social distance for wheelchair athletes which was a welcomed reprieve from being indoors. We are also so proud to support 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 376 members, all honorably discharged veterans with spinal cord injury or disease. We welcome 163 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. The MPVA's Board of Directors is selected from and elected by the members of our Chapter.

Administration

The MPVA is proud of to operate 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.

Fundraising

Our annual *Salute to Veterans* event took place in a different way this year! As we could not socially gather, the Chapter opted to host a *Virtual Run, Walk, Wheel* event that raised approximately \$10,000! Sponsors and volunteers of the event included: Ascension, Edward Jones, Eisenhower Center, The Googasian Law Firm, Health Partners, HVPC, LLC, Littler Mendelson, Morgan Stanley, NuStep, Nyman Turkish, and Walk the Line to SCI Recovery.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

	Assets Without Donor Restriction	Assets With Donor Restriction	Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT			
PVA grants	\$ 142,410	\$ -	\$ 142,410
Contributions	108,736	-	108,736
In-kind contributions	14,216	-	14,216
Other	2,963	-	2,963
Investment income, net	75,309	3,871	79,180
	<u>343,634</u>	<u>3,871</u>	<u>347,505</u>
Net assets release from restrictions	<u>23,000</u>	<u>(23,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	<u>366,634</u>	<u>(19,129)</u>	<u>347,505</u>
EXPENSES			
Program Services			
Membership benefits & services	191,554	-	191,554
Advocacy & government relations	40,691	-	40,691
Communication & public relations	48,888	-	48,888
Total Program Services	<u>281,132</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>281,132</u>
Supporting services			
Management & general	24,116	-	24,116
Fundraising	25,595	-	25,595
Total Supporting Services	<u>49,712</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>49,712</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>330,844</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>330,844</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	<u>35,790</u>	<u>(19,129)</u>	<u>16,661</u>
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	<u>1,160,135</u>	<u>411,155</u>	<u>1,571,290</u>
NET ASSETS, end of year	<u>1,195,925</u>	<u>392,026</u>	<u>1,587,951</u>

**Audited financial report completed by Schultz & Associates, PLC of Plymouth Michigan dated January 14, 2020.*

Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America
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Non-Profit Organization
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No. 245



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Michigan Chapter

MPVA Officers FY 20

President.....Michael Harris
Vice PresidentRobert Vance
SecretaryClark Shuler
Treasurer.....Timothy Agajeenian
DirectorRay Brown
DirectorDavid Peck
DirectorScot Severn

MPVA Staff

Jaelyn K. Kochis	Executive Director
Brenda A. Wheeler	Administrative Assistant
Linda K. Highland	Financial Officer
Robin L. Bennett	Development Coordinator

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!**
www.michiganpva.org