



# Paralyzed Veterans of America

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## Michigan Chapter

**T**he 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, 2021, marked our 60th Anniversary!

Despite the fact that we were still navigating through a pandemic, the Chapter is proud to share that our services have been flourishing and expanding. Our work to enhance the quality of life of life for veterans has been unwavering and we continue to provide 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 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 socially-distanced outdoor events take place through our support of Wheelin' Team 457, and also through our friends at the Miracle League of Plymouth and the RIM Foundation. 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 the silver lining of the challenges we have faced. We also are proud to share that we have added new funding sources for the community and our members in terms of grant opportunities that will positively impact those living with disabilities.

As I reflect back, I know that our Chapter feels extraordinarily thankful for all of the support we have received. Our second annual virtual “*Salute to Veterans Virtual Run, Walk, Wheel*” was a tremendous success, producing approximately \$15,000 of monies that will go directly back to our mission. In addition, the Chapter’s 60th Anniversary campaign garnered lots of awareness; we heard from long-time members and community supporters on our long history, while seeing a great deal of giving to celebrate that milestone.

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 2021. 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*

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**2021 Annual Report**  
**Making a difference since 1961!**

# Fiscal Year 2021

## 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 mostly 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. We continue the work to guarantee that benefits and rights of all veterans and citizens with disabilities are protected.

In FY 2021, 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 determine if they can improve the lives of people with disabilities and to ensure that they can live as independently as possible throughout southern and western Wayne County
- Appointed by Governor Whitmer to serve on the Michigan Department of 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](http://www.michiganpva.org) or on our Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/michiganpva.org](https://www.facebook.com/michiganpva.org).

## 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 to offices in Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Battle Creek.

## Sports and Recreation

The MPVA supports many adaptive sports programs state-wide. FY 2021 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 held in a hybrid state of virtual or face-to-face, the Chapter also participated in local and nationwide programs in virtual formats, such as the 40th National Veterans Games and was the sole sponsor of the Detroit Free Press Marathon's Disability Division.

Wheelin' Team 457 was also able to host some outdoor sporting events at a safe social distance for wheelchair athletes which was a welcomed reprieve from being indoors. We are so proud to support Wheelin' Team 457, which conducts seasonal hunting and fishing events in central Michigan. In this way, the MPVA was able to reach out across the state supporting recreation activities!

## Membership

The MPVA currently reaches out to 369 members, all honorably discharged veterans with spinal cord injury or disease. We welcome 161 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 to operate out of the Michigan Life Science and Innovation Center (MLSIC) located at: 46701 Commerce Center Dr. 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 2nd annual *Salute to Veterans Virtual Run, Walk, Wheel* event raised approximately \$15,000! Sponsors and volunteers of the event included: Ascension, Edward Jones, The Googasian Law Firm, Littler Mendelson, NuStep, Nyman Turkish, Susan Reck, Walk the Line SCI Recovery, and Wolfson Bolton.

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

	Assets Without Donor Restriction	Assets With Donor Restriction	Total
<b>REVENUE AND SUPPORT</b>			
PVA grants	\$ 149,386	\$ -	\$ 149,386
Contributions and other grants	62,149	3,579	65,728
In-kind contributions	-	-	-
Other	3,778	-	3,778
Investment income, net	231,840	3,414	235,254
	447,153	6,993	454,146
Net assets released from restrictions	3,579	(3,579)	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT</b>	<b>450,732</b>	<b>3,414</b>	<b>454,146</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program services			
Membership benefits & services	227,750	-	227,750
Advocacy & government relations	44,895	-	44,895
Communication & public relations	54,802	-	54,802
Total Program Services	327,446	-	327,446
Supporting services			
Management and general	23,039	-	23,039
Fundraising	23,437	-	23,437
Total supporting services	46,476	-	46,476
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>373,922</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>373,922</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>76,810</b>	<b>3,414</b>	<b>80,224</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, beginning of year</b>	<b>1,195,925</b>	<b>392,026</b>	<b>1,587,951</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 1,272,735</b>	<b>\$ 395,440</b>	<b>\$ 1,668,175</b>

*\*Audited financial report completed by Schultz & Associates, PLC of Plymouth Michigan dated January 11, 2022.*

**Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America**  
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Plymouth, MI 48170

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No. 245



## **Paralyzed Veterans of America**

**Michigan Chapter**

### **MPVA Officers FY 21**

President.....Michael Harris  
Vice President .....Robert Vance  
Secretary .....Clark Shuler  
Treasurer.....Timothy Agajeenian  
Director .....Ray Brown  
Director .....David Peck  
Director .....Scot 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 life 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](http://www.michiganpva.org)