

RT '08

Rollin' Times from the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America

National POW/MIA Recognition Day, September 19, 2008

September/October 2008





PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA MICHIGAN CHAPTER

www.michiganpva.org

On the Cover:

September is the month in which we pay tribute to the POW-MIA. Private Byron W. Fouty was considered MIA until July when authorities determined his whereabouts in Al Taqa, Iraq. Recently, Private Fouty was returned home to his family in Michigan for his memorial and was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. Please keep Private Fouty's family in your prayers.

Full story on page 11

MPVA Officers and Directors

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| President | Kevin G. Elya | Director | John Dusa |
| Vice President | David Peck | Director | Nickolas Wercely |
| Secretary..... | Patrick Adams | Director | Quintin Williams |
| Treasurer | Clark Shuler | Director | Scot Severn |
| Director | Gary Grubbe | Director | Vacant |

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|--|--|
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| | Published by <i>Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America</i> |

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Disclaimer:

The Rollin' Times is a publication of the Michigan Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America. It is designed to inform the members of the PVA and other interested parties on veterans' issues, legislation, legal decisions, medical technology and other matters deemed to be relevant to the disability community.

The contents of this publication do not always reflect the views or policies of Michigan PVA, and no endorsement or approval is made or should be inferred with respect to products or services advertised herein. Consult an appropriate professional before making use of any product or service mentioned.

Inside this Issue

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| President's Report | 3 |
| Executive Director's Report | 4 |
| From the Development Desk | 5 |
| Government Relations & Advocacy | 6 |
| Veterans News | 8 |
| Sports & Recreation | 8 |
| Salute to Veterans | 9 |

Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America

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Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) is one of 34 member chapters of Washington, D.C.-based Paralyzed Veterans of America. A Congressionally chartered veterans service organization, MPVA has been assisting veterans with spinal cord injuries or diseases, including Multiple Sclerosis and ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, better known as Lou Gehrig's Disease), in Michigan since 1961.

MPVA programs include:

- Veterans' Benefits
- Wheelchair Sports and Recreation
- Spinal Cord Injury Research
- Equipment Donation
- Advocacy to eliminate architectural barriers and protect civil rights for persons with disabilities
- Referral Services for assistive devices, housing, employment and transportation
- Literature on a variety of topics including self-care, independent living, and disability rights.
- The Pump Guide: an online directory of gas stations throughout Michigan that will pump gas at the self-serve price for persons with disabilities.
- MPVA is a nonprofit organization and receives no federal funding. MPVA relies on grants, sponsorships, and private and corporate donations to support its programs.

The MPVA headquarters is in Novi, Michigan. Our service officers are based out of the McNamara Federal Building in Downtown Detroit.



President's Report

By Kevin G. Elya

A Successful Summer

Detroit VA Medical Center Site Visit

I hope everyone had a great summer and looking forward to a beautiful fall. I want to update you on the site visit that took place in July at the Detroit VA Medical Center (VAMC). I have to say, for my first site visit I was very impressed with the way things went. The Hospital Director, Chief of Staff, and other supporting staff were interviewed. The staff at the Detroit VAMC is energetic and positive. The hospital leadership is committed to excellence in care. I wanted take some time and share some of the recommendations that were made by the site visit team with you:

- Additional neurologists (approximately two) are being considered along with additional psychiatrist for the facility. Without doubt, adding physicians will greatly enhance the opportunities for care at this facility.

- The lead neurologist will be increasing his time on-site and new team members will be joining the Support Clinic. Therefore, the team will be enhancing their time spent with clients and they should become recerti-

fied by the Spinal Cord Injury/Disability (SCI/D) Chief Consultant from Cleveland.

- Currently, scheduled SCI/D outpatient visits are two half-days a week, and Veterans with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) are also given only two half-days a week. The site visit team discussed adding clinical time and the goal will be to gradually move toward a schedule that will allow for patients to be seen five days a week.

- On-site renovations are underway and when completed there will be four beds available for SCI/D Veterans to receive annual evaluations.

As always, if you visit the Detroit VA and would like to express your feedback, feel free to contact me at kelya@michiganpva.org.

MPVA Annual Member Picnic

I hope everyone enjoyed our membership picnic. The weather was not the greatest, but, overall we had a wonderful turn out! I would like to thank the staff for all of their help, all of the member who came out despite the rain, Ross Foote Catering for the fine food, and my wife Annie for bringing out her animals that everyone seem to enjoy.

The 5th Annual Salute to Veterans Gala

The 5th Annual Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of American "Salute to Veterans Gala" is just around the corner. I personally invite you to come and join us and show your appreciation for the men and women who gave up their freedom to protect our country. We will proudly celebrate 47 years of keeping the Chapter's mission alive while saluting every veteran and honoring our fallen heroes. There are plenty of sponsorship opportunities available and you can find out more about them by turning to the last page of this issue where you will find the brochure, or at our website <http://www.michiganpva.org/> or, finally, by contacting Jaclyn Kochis, Director of Development and Public Relations, at (248) 476-9000 ext. 06.

In Memoriam

The MPVA would like to extend condolences to the family of Dennis E. Neigebauer. As a life-time member of the MPVA and an Army retiree, Denis will be remembered by all.

Welcome Aboard New Members

Arthur Potter

Gary Cunningham

Lynn Houghton

Kenneth Johnson

We are proud you are
part of the MPVA family!



Executive Director's Report

By Mike Harris

More Summer News

Voting Can Make a Difference

Approximately 54 million Americans, roughly 20 percent of the population, personally experience some form of disability. Shockingly, it has been 18 years since Congress enacted the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), yet, the disability community is one of the largest minority constituents in the country. Americans with disabilities have been one of the least mobilized voting blocs. According to a 2005 press release issued by the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), "there are 20.9 million voting aged citizens with disabilities who are not registered to vote (55.7% of the total disability population)." Despite its effort to "increase privacy and independence for voters with disabilities" (this law aimed to make polling sites more accessible by 2006), the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) did not significantly amplify voter turnout for men and women with disabilities in the 2004 election. The World Institute on Disability (<http://www.wid.org/>) posted a newsletter in October of 2006 written by Ana Acton, a disability advocate who has fought for the rights of Californians with disabilities to vote, stating that "only 35% of eligible voters with disabilities voted in the 2004 election." So, what do all these statistics mean?

It our fundamental right to vote. Exercising this right as full and equal participants in the democratic process has great importance to all and it is increasingly important to people with disabilities. People with disabilities can have a significant impact on the political process. Thus, all of these facts imply that there needs to be increased participation from individuals with disabilities in the electoral process to maximize our ability to affect federal, state, and local political priorities.

Voting is one of the easiest ways to make your voice heard and your vote can make a difference! There are many laws and policies that directly impact issues important to individuals with disabilities, such as housing, transportation, health care and many others. Voting empowers you by giving you a say in who will be the representative making the laws and policies that will directly affect you or someone you love.

Any United States citizen who is at least 18 years of age on Election Day is eligible to vote. But before you

can cast a ballot, you must register. Voter registration forms are available at any Secretary of State Branch office, online at www.Michigan.gov/sos, or from your local clerk. October 6, 2008 is the last day to register for November 4, 2008 General Election.

This article is not about telling people which candidates to vote for or how to vote on propositions or initiatives, rather it is more important that people with disabilities understand that they have more opportunities to vote than ever before and should take full advantage of them. Corresponding to the nature of this right, government officials and election administrators at all levels of government must recognize they have a fundamental obligation to guarantee full access to the ballot box for all Americans.

If people with disabilities vote in less numbers than the general population; politicians will not take these issues as seriously as they should! Voting is power, and amplifying the size of any group's vote can significantly impact that their political muscle. It is the best way to effect long-term change. If people with disabilities are displeased with the current state of our laws and programs; the simple act of voting is the easiest way to take back some control. If we are ever going to make elected officials accountable to the issues that concern the disability community, we must get out and vote.

MPVA Sports Director

Makes the U.S. Paralympics Team

I want to take the opportunity to congratulate Scot Severn for being nominated to the 2008 U.S. Paralympics Track & Field Team that will compete in Beijing, China, scheduled for September 6-17, 2008. The nomination was based on his performances at the 2008 U.S. Paralympics Team Trials, Track & Field, the sole qualifying track & field event for the 2008 Paralympics Games. At the Track & Field Trials, Scot set the American record in the javelin and discus throw!

Over 4,000 elite athletes with a physical disability from around the world are expected to compete in the 2008 Paralympics Games. The U.S. will field a team of 206 athletes who will compete in 18 sports.

Just like Olympic athletes, Paralympics athletes go through rigorous training year-round to prepare

for their respective events. They are the best of the best, who through determination and hard work earn the honor of representing the United States on the competitive playing field at the Paralympics Games. The Paralympics Games are held ap-

proximately two weeks after the Olympic Games in the same host city/country.

Scot, we wish you the best of luck---I expect (and know) you will bring back the Gold! 🏅



From the Development Office

By Jaclyn Kochis

More Summer News

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Jaclyn Kochis, and I joined the MPVA in late-June as the Chapter's Director of Development and Public Relations. I am very excited to be a part of the MPVA and its mission.

Prior to joining the MPVA, I obtained a Bachelor's Degree with a major in Public Relations, and a minor in Psychology, at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. I had many internship opportunities while studying at UM-Dearborn, however, the internship I most thoroughly enjoyed turned into a job opportunity; working at a non-profit organization called The Senior Alliance. By working with The Senior Alliance, a non-profit organization, I new that all of my work was going towards a great cause---to support seniors and persons with disabilities throughout southern and western Wayne County, Michigan. There, my duties consisted of: public relations, event planning, grant writing, and community outreach. Recently, I went back to school to obtain a graduate degree. I enrolled at Central Michigan University and have been taking classes at their satellite college campuses. I decided to take a break over this summer (I really could not stand sitting inside the classroom all day on Saturday's and looking out at the beautiful weather). I am hoping to enroll for courses again over the winter.

Since joining the MPVA, I have been working hard with the rest of our team to plan this year's Salute to Veterans Gala, prepare this issue of the Rollin' Times, and research grant opportunities. I think that this is going to be a great year! I look forward to meeting many of you, if I have not already met you at our Picnic. My main goal at this Chapter is to maintain and augment the organization's growth. As I mentioned, I truly do enjoy working in the non-profit sector, and I am extremely proud to be working that the MPVA and supporting its mission to serve Veterans and individuals with disabilities.

I would like to encourage all of you to keep in touch with me and provide your feedback or comments in regards to the Chapter's development. My e-mail ad-

dress is jkochis@michiganpva.org and I can be reached on our main phone line at (248) 476-9000 ext. 06. 🏅

"I know the price of success: dedication, hard work and an unremitting devotion to the things you want to see happen."
-Frank Lloyd Wright

Valuable Dates for 2008

Membership Meetings

(all meetings are on Thursdays at the Novi MPVA office unless otherwise notified)

September 18 October TBA

Special Events

30th Annual National

POW-MIA Recognition Day

Friday, September 19th, 2008

6:30 PM

Presented by: The Prisoner of War Committee of Michigan in cooperation with Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens. This event will pay tribute to Michigan's Prisoners of War and Missing in Action. The event is located at: Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens, Twelve Mile and Novi Road, Novi, Michigan. Flowers, wreaths, and veterans post/chapter/committee colors are encouraged. Please contact P.O.W. Committee Contact: Debbie Pineau Piepsney (734) 395-4697 for more information.

Salute to Veterans Gala

Thursday, November 6th, 2008

VistaTech Center at Schoolcraft College

Register and/or Sponsor by Contacting Jaclyn Kochis, Director of Development & P.R., at (248) 476-9000 ext. 06

MPVA Member Holiday Party

December 6th, 2008



Government Relations & Advocacy

By Bonnie L. Welbaum, Director of Government Relations & Advocacy

Highlights

Let me start by welcoming Jaclyn Kochis, our new Development and Communication Director, to our office. She has impressed everyone here with her energy, knowledge and get-it-done attitude. She's friendly, confident, and already an asset to PVA and our office. At the November 6th Salute to Veterans Dinner will get to meet her. We've had a lot going on here, and I have highlighted some of the important issues for you below:

- **Americans with Disability Act:** After long awaited legislation, the ADA (Americans with Disability Act) has been passed by the House last month and we will now wait for the Senate to sign on. It will be called the ADA Amendments Act of 2008. This is a giant step that demonstrates that Congress intended the ADA's protection to cover anyone who faces disability discrimination. This is going to be a landmark decision and will be very grateful for all the hard work in getting it passed.

- **Tips-Up for Troops Second Annual Event:** On June 14th the "Tips-Up for Troops Second Annual Event" took place at Kent Lake, in Brighton. It was a beautiful summer day and a great success for all. This Master Bass Pro-Am Fishing Tournament benefited many of Michigan's Paralyzed, Purple Heart, Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom Veterans. The charity was sponsored by Brain Injury Association of America, with the MPVA as a co-sponsor, along with Atwell Hicks Development Consultants and Fausone Bohn, LLP-Legal Help for Veterans. A lot of people volunteered and many companies donated prizes to make the day a success. Rick Briggs, chairman of the Veterans division of the Brain Injury Association, Michigan Chapter was the MC. He works diligently to help the number of soldiers returning from the war with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI). The Michigan Bass Masters volunteered their time, boats, and equipment to make an enjoyable day for soldiers returning home to enjoy a relaxing day at the lake. It is estimated that one in 10 soldiers who have returned from Iraq or Afghanistan come home with a TBI. In Michigan alone, nearly 200,000 people live with disabilities as the result of some type of TBI. For more information on Traumatic Brain Injuries contact the Brain Injury

Association of Michigan at 800-772-4323. Please see the photo taken of me at this great event near the title of my column.

- **Michigan's Auto No-Fault Insurance:** Did you know that auto crash-related TBIs account for 32.4% of non-fatal hospitalized TBI cases in Michigan? Treatment for these injuries is currently covered by Michigan's Auto No-Fault Insurance. Today, Michigan Auto No-Fault Insurance is under attack. Currently, motorists are required to have protection that provides a lifetime benefit for serious auto-related injuries, as TBI and spinal cord injuries. One proposed change of Michigan's Auto No-Fault Insurance is House Bill 4702 (Senate 1278). This bill is opting to limit a driver's Personal Injury Protection (PIP); this is the coverage of medical care cost and rehabilitation in serious life-threatening accidents. In place of PIP, the legislation will offer a less-expensive policy and coverage. In turn, many may "choose" the cheaper policy (with a lot less coverage) than what is now required by Michigan law. It would be quite risky for anyone to accept the cheaper policy in order to save a small amount, if injured. For instance, an estimated cost of care and treatment for a catastrophic injury can easily exceed \$1 million during the course of a lifetime. Thus, the 10-16% savings wouldn't be worth it and would leave the individual or their family responsible for large cost of treatment and care. Therefore, I would urge you to please call your representatives and state legislators to urge them to vote "No" on both bills and call your auto insurance agent and confirm that you have full Personal Injury Protection (PIP) coverage.

- **Michigan's Veteran Centers:** It is expected that in early fall of 2009 new veteran's health clinics will be completed. The Department of Veterans Affairs announced that combat veterans will have an additional 39 community-based Veteran Centers, adding to the current 232 offices across the country now offering readjustment and career counseling. They will also provide family, job, counseling, and bereavement counseling to families of service members killed on active duty. Sexual harassment and health issues could also be addressed. Macomb and Oakland County are on the list of counties mentioned.

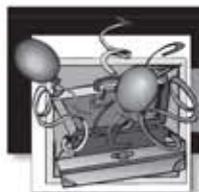
- Americans with Disabilities Advisory Update: As you may already know, I have been working since January 2008 with a monthly ADA Advisory Group for Wayne State University. The campus encompasses 203 acres, 12 schools, and links 100 education and research buildings. The number of those enrolled consists of over 33,000 full and part time students. Wayne State recognizes the need to update their facilities to ADA compliance. We at the MPVA are currently reviewing with them, updating their last transition plan, and helping to prioritize future. Libraries, high use classrooms, curb cuts, and signage throughout the campus, identifying accessible entrances, and restrooms are all high priority. Most recently, the University has had plans to update their theater, Bonstelle Theatre, which is expected to be accessible prior to this fall's opening season in October 2009. Over the next few issues I will keep you updated on how Wayne is working to become a more accessible campus, and opening dialog on truly being a "diverse university of tomorrow- for all students."

- Veterans Education Updates: President Bush recently signed into law the Webb GI Bill for Post-9-11 Veterans. The Post-9-11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 (more commonly known as "the New GI Bill"), provides support for

our active service member, recently separated veterans, and our frequently deployed Reserve and Guard members. Those who prefer to keep the current Montgomery GI Bill will also see increases as their checks rise from \$1,100 a month to an average of \$1,900.

- A Sad Note for One Local Family: Early in July the Department of Defense announced the deaths of two soldiers listed as "missing-captured" while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Positively identified human remains were recovered in Iraq on July 9th by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner. Killed and recovered were: 25 year old Sergeant Alex R. Jimenez of Lawrence, Massachusetts, and 19 year old Private First Class Byron J. Fouty of Waterford, Michigan. They were both part of a patrol ambushed by enemy forces south of Baghdad on May 12, 2007. Both soldiers were part of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) out of Ft. Drum, New York. Our deepest sympathies go out to the families of these soldiers as they will be forever honored for their duties serving our country. 🇺🇸

Note: All information retrieved from public open-sources.



BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Alice M. MacNaughton | September 02 |
| Naida A. Schelter | September 03 |
| Ada Louise Grassmeyer | September 04 |
| Jaclyn K. Kochis | September 04 |
| Roger L. Putman | September 04 |
| Michael A. Richter | September 05 |
| Truman Yoder | September 05 |
| Richard H. Rapp | September 06 |
| Bruce M. Hayden | September 07 |
| Percy L. Lampkin | September 07 |
| James D. Hyatt | September 08 |
| Jose V. Davila Martinez | September 09 |
| Michael D. Leonard | September 09 |
| Kenneth M. Owens | September 09 |
| Ralph C. Spence | September 09 |
| Russell C. Andersen | September 10 |
| Paul R. Brown | September 10 |
| Willie Daniels | September 11 |
| Arthur D. Dodge | September 11 |

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Larry E. Pratt | September 11 |
| Thomas F. Schneider | September 11 |
| James R. Witz | September 11 |
| Willie J. Cunningham | September 12 |
| Francesco Guerra | September 12 |
| Bonnie J. Williams | September 12 |
| Kenneth E. Bezemek | September 13 |
| Ian Minicuci | September 13 |
| Jamie R. Monroe | September 13 |
| Carl A. Larkins | September 14 |
| Kimberly S. Keeter | September 15 |
| David C. MacKinder | September 15 |
| Roger J. McCarville | September 15 |
| Amy E. Shuler | September 16 |
| Thomas A. Dever | September 17 |
| William C. Helwig | September 17 |
| C. William Helwig | September 17 |
| Brian D. Walker | September 17 |
| Jerrold A. Weathers | September 18 |
| William R. Sampay | September 19 |
| Frederick L. Moore | September 21 |
| Stephanie D. Calendar | September 22 |
| Daniel S. Kemp | September 23 |
| James Sewell | September 23 |
| Gary L. Grubbe | September 24 |
| Inez A. Waller | September 24 |
| Richard L. Lang | September 25 |

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| William D. Nee | September 25 |
| Benjamin F. Taylor | September 25 |
| Jan M. Black | September 26 |
| Christ K. Rasmussen | September 26 |
| Joseph M. Sabatini | September 28 |



| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Thomas B. Anthony | October 01 |
| Michael E. Baldwin | October 02 |
| Rodney K. Hawes | October 02 |
| Norman J. Ochelski | October 02 |
| Donald D. Ransom | October 02 |
| Jeffery D. Risner | October 02 |
| William Bromley | October 04 |
| Kevin P. Wolf | October 05 |
| Anthony P. Daschke | October 06 |

Continued on page 7



Veterans' News

By Charles Henning, Senior National Service Officer

Beneficiary and Travel Benefits

Our staff at the Detroit VA Benefits Office receives various requests. One issue of particular importance is travel benefits that are paid out to certain veterans by the VA Medical Centers. The following paragraphs highlight the most up-to-date information regarding the eligibility for veterans travel benefits:

Benefit Description: If you meet the criteria below, you may be eligible for VA beneficiary travel benefits associated with obtaining VA health care services. Deductibles do not apply to the following: compensation, pension examinations, and travel by an ambulance, or a specially equipped van.

You Qualify If:

1. you have a service-connected (SC) rating of 30 percent or more, or
2. you are traveling for treatment of a SC condition, or
3. you receive a VA pension, or
4. your income does not exceed the maximum annual VA pension rate, or
5. you are traveling for a scheduled compensation or pension examination

You Qualify for Special Mode Transportation (Ambulance, wheelchair van etc.) if:

1. your medical condition requires an ambulance or a specially equipped van, and
2. you meet one of the eligibility criteria in 1 through 4 above, and

3. the travel is pre-authorized (authorization is not required for emergencies if a delay would be hazardous to life or health)

Note: OEF/OIF Combat Veterans must meet one of the qualifying eligibilities or conditions noted above.

Mileage Rates:

General Travel: \$ 0.285 (28.5 cents) per mile

Scheduled appointments qualify for round trip mileage. Unscheduled visits may be limited to return mileage only.

Deductible: \$7.77 one-way (\$15.54 round trip)

• A deductible requirement is subject to a monthly cap of \$46.62. Upon reaching \$46.62 in deductibles, travel payments made for the balance of that particular month will be free of deductible charges.

• Veterans whose projected income in the year of application will not exceed the applicable VA pension rate may request a waiver from the deductible requirement.

Note: *Mileage reimbursement claims for travel prior to February 1, 2008 will be processed at the previous rates of 11 cents per mile for travel in relation to health care and 17 cents per mile for recalls due to an insufficient lab, EKG, x-ray, etc. in relation to a Compensation and Pension examination ("Convenience of the Government") with deductibles of \$3 per one-way trip; \$6 for a round-trip; with a maximum of \$18 per calendar month.* ❧

Birthdays, cont.

Continued from page 8

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Dennis M. Kochanowski | October 06 | Jacob Gormezano | October 12 | Joseph R. Poterek | October 16 |
| John R. Jackson | October 07 | Bonnie L. Morgan | October 12 | George J. Priest | October 16 |
| Robert E. Goble | October 08 | Ronald K. Gimik | October 13 | Debra L. Grubbe | October 17 |
| Mark E. Gulch | October 08 | Gerald D. Childs | October 14 | Fred G. Minx | October 17 |
| Roland A. Heaton | October 09 | Carey Glaze | October 14 | Dale R. Wood | October 17 |
| Mary E. Estes | October 10 | Timothy L. Guilford | October 14 | Renee A. LaForest-Diggs | October 18 |
| Christopher V. Greenhouse | October 10 | Michael R. Leonard | October 14 | Marlene T. Shotwell | October 18 |
| Matthew J. Trippe | October 11 | Arthur A. Potter | October 14 | Kenneth O. Johnson | October 19 |
| Byron R. Arrowsmith | October 12 | William J. Zinow | October 14 | James G. Tanner | October 19 |
| Michael W. Gates | October 12 | Gary R. Dillon | October 16 | Mark R. Brorson | October 20 |



Sports & Recreation

By Scot Severn

Pics on
page 11

Thunder in the Valley Games

The 1st Annual Thunder in the Valley Games was held on June 20-22nd on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University. The games were a complete success with nearly 60 athletes from as far away as Atlanta and St. Louis showing up to challenge their skills in track and field events as well as archery and air rifle. With the exception of a few sprinkles on Saturday morning the weather didn't cause any problems. Saginaw Valley State opened a section of dorm rooms at low cost to help house the athletes and out of town officials. The event was sponsored by: Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America, Michigan Sports Unlimited, Wright & Fillipis, Marv Brandle, Morley Foundation, Field Neuroscience Institute, Fusion Medical, Frank Anderson Foundation, Saginaw Valley State University, Saginaw Community Foundation, and the Saginaw Convention & Visitors Bureau. There were also several local sponsors that contributed time and resources to make the games a reality. Wheelchair Sports USA officials were on hand to help run the events and record the results.

All ages and all levels of disability were welcome to participate in the events that included many wheelchair and amputee athletes. Track and Field clinics were held on Thursday to introduce beginner athletes to track racing and throwing events such as discus, javelin and shot put. Classification was available for new athletes who had not competed in disabled sports before.

The games kicked off on Friday morning with the Air Rifle Competition. Later, Friday evening, athletes attend-

ed a welcome party where we had dinner, entertainment and Paralympian Linda Mastandrea as keynote speaker. Linda, who is from Chicago, is an accomplished athlete and holder of several Paralympic medals. Saturday was a full day on the track and most of the athletes competing in throwing events. On the final day of the event, Several Archers showed up in the morning to take their shot at the bull's-eye. Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medals were awarded in each disability class for every event, while Trophies were handed out for the large and small team of athletes. It was exciting to see Wheelin' Team 457 add the large team trophy to their impressive collection that includes team trophies from the Michigan Wheelchair Games and the Ohio Wheelchair Games for the last five years running. Meanwhile, The Sports Ability team, sponsored by the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan, went home with the Small team trophy.

The planning for the Thunder in the Valley games began over a year before the event and the preparation paid off, making it one of the best run competitions in the nation. Next year's event promises to be bigger and better. The possible addition of more events, such as swimming, should draw many more participants. For more information, or to view photos, you can visit <http://www.thunderinthevalleygames.com/>. While you're there, click on the "Contact" icon and fill in you're contact information if you would like to be added to the mailing list for next years games. You can also call me directly at 989-225-7053 or e-mail me at ssevern@michiganpva.org.

Birthdays, cont.

Continued from page 8

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Christian M. Gouin | October 20 | Daniel C. Evans | October 24 | Kenya A. Hyatt | October 28 |
| William H. Horen | October 20 | Nathan R. Moore | October 24 | Willie Mooney | October 28 |
| Merwin E. Root | October 20 | Nickolas Wercely | October 25 | Mark A. Van Slambrouck | October 28 |
| Lorenzo M. Woodson | October 20 | Charles F. Wilson | October 25 | Tammy M. Bova | October 29 |
| Lynn Houghton | October 21 | Margo H. Bradley-Mark | October 26 | Kenneth Jones | October 29 |
| James E. Lay | October 21 | Jerry S. Beard | October 26 | Terry Katajamaki | October 29 |
| Norma Smith | October 21 | Lowell R. Burton | October 26 | Kenneth H. Laudenslager | October 29 |
| Charles L. Havens | October 22 | Juan E. Flores | October 26 | James D. Webber | October 29 |
| Richard L. Owens | October 23 | Herbert S. Lewis | October 27 | Dale Weaver | October 30 |
| Roger C. Putnam | October 23 | Frank Chesnick | October 28 | James L. Mauney | October 31 |

Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America presents
THE 5TH ANNUAL SALUTE TO VETERANS GALA
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2008 6 - 9 PM

VistaTech Center at Schoolcraft College

18600 Haggerty Road - Livonia, MI 48152

This benefit is the MPVA's only annual fundraising event. Proceeds go toward MPVA programs and other organizations serving Michigan's veterans. Come out and show your support for this wonderful cause!

5 Star Sponsor ☆☆☆☆☆ \$5,000

- 1 table of 8 with preferred placement near stage
- Full page add in Gala program booklet
- Company logo on all printed materials on-site signage
- Your company will be featured as a sponsor in at www.michiganpva.org
- Full page ad in the chapter's *Rollin' Times* magazine

4 Star Sponsor ☆☆☆☆☆ \$2,500

- 1 table of 8 with preferred placement near stage
- Full page ad in Gala program booklet
- Company logo on all printed materials on-site signage
- Half-page ad in the chapter's *Rollin' Times* magazine

3 Star Sponsor ☆☆☆ \$1,500

- 1 table of 8
- Half-page ad in Gala program booklet
- Company logo on all printed materials on-site signage
- Quarter page ad in the chapter's *Rollin' Times* magazine

2 Star Sponsor ☆☆☆ \$1,000

- On site signage, half page ad in Gala program booklet

1 Star Sponsor ☆☆☆ \$500

- Half-page ad in Gala program booklet

ROTC Sponsor ☆☆☆ \$1,200

- Underwrite the cost of a table for ROTC programs at the University of Michigan (Navy), Michigan State University (Air Force), or from the Detroit Public Schools
- On-site signage, half-page ad in program book
- Company Logo included in coverage on www.michiganpva.org

Business Card Advertisement ☆☆☆ \$50

- Business card advertisement in program booklet

**PLEASE REGISTER BY
 SEPTEMBER 30, 2008!**

Mail your contributions and registration to:
 Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America
 40550 Grand River Avenue
 Novi, MI 48375
 Or fax: (248) 476-9545

Questions?
 Contact: Jaclyn Kochis
 MPVA Director of Development & Public Relations
 At: (248) 476-9000 ext. 06

I AM REGISTERING FOR...

_____ # of Dinner(s) at \$55 a person**

Sponsorship: Other/Donation/In-kind:

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone 1 /Phone 2 _____

I am paying via credit card

Please circle one: Mastercard Visa

Credit Card # _____

Signature _____

Our check is enclosed

**** Please note that sponsorships packages will receive priority seating. Individual seating is limited.**



Thunder in the Valley Games





YOU CAN DO THIS!



THE WHEELER DIVISION LEADS THE WAY

It's the division that adds diversity while multiplying the fun!



Best of luck to every wheeler and runner on October 19!

Fusion Medical & Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America
Co-sponsors, 2008 Wheeler Division, Detroit Free Press-Flagstar Marathon



EVENTS/RACES



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A Member Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America
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September/October 2008