

RT '10

Rollin' Times from the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America



On July 26, 1990, the 41st President of the United States, George H. W. Bush, signed a historic civil rights legislation known as “The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).”

This year marks the 20th Anniversary
of this monumental law.





PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
MICHIGAN CHAPTER



On the Cover:

In this issue, we will take a look back at the passing of an extremely important law known as The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and see how it has changed our nation and explore how we can continue to advocate for the rights it has provided us.

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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.

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.



President's Report

By Kevin G. Elya

Run, Walk, or Wheel: An Opportunity That Everyone Can Enjoy

In this issue, we are so proudly remembering a very important date: July 26th, 2010. This date marks the 20th Anniversary of the ADA being signed into law. As you flip through the rest of this magazine, you will have a chance to read about the importance of this landmark agreement and, more specifically, we hope that you will take away some new information that will help make you a better advocate for disability rights issues.

In saying that, I have the pleasure of letting you know about a really great opportunity that was recently presented to the MPVA by a great supporter and advocate right here in Novi, Michigan. In May, Mr. Brian O'Hara, owner of Bonefish Grill restaurant (which is located roughly a mile down the street from MPVA Chapter Headquarters), contacted the MPVA and told us he had a great idea and he wanted to team up with us and help maintain our mission of advocating for accessible and barrier free environments.

Knowing what a wonderful and outgoing person Brian is, the MPVA was extremely excited to see what he had in store and a meeting was set up in order to discuss his plan. Upon meeting with Brian, we were able to brainstorm about the potential of organizing a 5K event that would help to support the MPVA. The meeting took place with Tara Michener, co-founder of The Dimensions of Diversity Group the MPVA helped to launch, and another group which Brian has also been affiliated with called "Triathletes In Action" or simply TIA.

TIA is a group of service-based athletes who join together to not only enjoy the competition of races but also work to support organizations that better the community. After hearing about TIA's mission, the MPVA was even more delighted to jump on board with the project.

As the discussion progressed, we decided that we would host the 5K on Saturday, September 25, 2010, from 8:30 AM to 12:00 Noon, within the Novi Town Center at Grand River and Novi Road and called it

"The Novi Town Center Presents: 5K Run, Walk, Wheel." The event would welcome men, women, and children of all ages and all abilities to come out and enjoy the following:

- A "fun run" for children.
- A 5K run, walk, or wheel for all.
- An obstacle course that is designed to demonstrate the challenges wheelchair users face when individuals fail to adhere to standards and guidelines of the ADA law. In this case, non-wheelchair users will have an opportunity to get in a wheelchair and attempt to complete the obstacle course for a small fee that will support the MPVA's mission.
- An awards ceremony that will follow all the competitions and Bonefish Grill will provide light refreshments and appetizers during that time.

We are hoping that this event will be the first of many, and that it will continue to grow as an annual event. We will only be able to do so with your support! As we currently work out more of the details for this event, we hope that you will stay tuned to this project by following us at our website, www.michiganpva.org. We will be sure to post more information about this exciting venture in our next Rollin' Times issue!

Don't Forget to Mark Your Calendar for Wednesday, November 10, 2010 as the MPVA will be hosting our 7th Annual Salute to Veterans Gala at the Vista Tech Center at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. Please visit www.michiganpva.org for more details or contact Jaclyn Kochis, MPVA Development Director, at (248) 476-9000 ext. 06 if you are interested in attending, sponsoring, or donating a gift to be an auction item.





Executive Director's Report

By Mike Harris

The ADA: Twenty Years Later

This year marks the twenty anniversary of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). When signed into law, the ADA was hailed as the most sweeping civil rights legislation since the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Twenty years after its passage the importance of the ADA cannot be denied. It has propelled into the spotlight: accessibility, universal design, and the idea of equal opportunity for those of us who live with disabilities. In the process, we have discovered that an accessible society benefits everyone.

During the past thirty years, the accepted definition of disability has been changing for the positive. In the 1970's, the concept of a disability referred to an underlying physical or mental condition. For example, a person with paraplegia would have been considered disabled based solely on their physical condition. Today, disability is seen as a complex interaction between a person and their environment. The same person with paraplegia may be considered disabled due to their physical impairment as well as the barriers in the environment that prevent full social participation.

As public perception of disability has changed over time, so have the goals of programs supporting people with disabilities. In the past, the emphasis was to provide support to people with disabilities primarily through benefits. Today, the emphasis has shifted to supporting independence and promoting involvement in all aspects of society.

Disability is not the experience that will touch just a minority of Americans. Rather, it is an experience that will touch most Americans at some point

during their lives. People with disabilities come from all walks of life, in all colors, sizes, genders and ages. Those of us living with disabilities bring something to the table whether it is fresh perspective, indomitable spirit or an energizing presence.

Since the signing of the ADA much has changed. America's built environment, transportation and telecommunications infrastructure have been transformed by the ADA's gradual approach to accessibility improvements. This change comes at a critical moment as America is aging and the demand for accessibility is increasing.

Because of the ADA, millions of Americans have grown accustomed to accessibility features when they are pushing strollers or pulling roller bags through public spaces, when they are watching captions in an airport, or when they are riding their bikes up/down curb cuts.

Prior to the ADA, millions of Americans with disabilities lived as second-rate citizens in a society based on the promise that "All men are created equal." There were no laws to ensure access to or a benefit from the most basic of freedoms that a majority of Americans take for granted.

People with disabilities who had traditionally been isolated, not only from the mainstream of society, but from one another, began coming together to speak out and demand an end to unequal treatment and seeking control over their own lives.

Upon passage of the ADA on July 26th, 1990,

President George H.W. Bush described the ADA as “the world’s first comprehensive declaration of the equality of people with disabilities,” declaring that “every man, woman and child with a disability can now pass through once closed doors, into a bright new era of equality, independence and freedom.”

When analyzing the ADA I wouldn’t characterize it as a complete success, but I wouldn’t characterize it as a failure. I think it is an important piece of legislation whose promise has not been “fully realized.” When the ADA became law, most people with disabilities assumed that the front door would be open and everyone would welcome us with open arms! As we know, this is not always been the case.

With that said, we still have our work cut out for us. There has always been a perception in the disability community that because the ADA is in place our elected officials are automatically enforcing it. Unfortunately, this is not the case. State and local officials throughout Michigan do not have the authority to enforce Title III of the ADA on behalf of the Federal government unless the Department of Justice certifies Michigan building codes. The likelihood of that happening anytime soon is very remote.

It is for that reason it is important that we become advocates in the communities we live in so we can provide insight on the issues that prohibits us from being active participants. We need to work to create conditions, to establish policies and practices which facilitate the full integration and participation of persons with disabilities into all aspects of community life.

As we have benefited by the actions of the thousands of people who have come before us, it’s up to us to pave the way for those who will come after. In advocating for our rights, disabled people must work to establish several important principles. One is to be considered on the basis of individual merit,

not on stereotyped assumptions about disabilities. Another is that society must make certain changes to enable people with disabilities to freely access their community without having to encounter architectural barriers.

We do know that the world is an easier place to get around than it was before the ADA. Many places that were completely inaccessible to us have now opened their doors to people with disabilities. Stadiums, amusement parks, public parks, and theaters that would otherwise have been poorly designed are now accessible due to the fact that we advocated for accessible design.

It is obvious that the ADA has made a difference in the lives of so many. But there are many others who still face barriers. Barriers that man-made structures create and barriers stemming from people’s attitudes. Those barriers took generations to create. It will take continued vigilance and dedication to remove them.

As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the civil rights law, let’s commit to redouble our efforts to identify and knock down the remaining barriers to full citizenship that continue to thwart the beautiful vision of the ADA. Working together, we can build on the progress of the last 20 years and create an America that celebrates and invests in the talents, dreams and aspirations of its more than 54 million people with disabilities.

As we go forward, in conjunction with the 20th Anniversary of the ADA, we ask you to join the MPVA in honoring the efforts of those who came before us. We can work together to build upon the past successes and ensure that the ADA is someday fully realized for paralyzed veterans and all people with disabilities. We can make certain that our future truly welcomes individuals to live independently and barrier-free.





From The Development Office

By Jaclyn Kochis & Brian F. Sheridan, OTR & William N. Thornton, MPT

By: Jaclyn Kochis

Now on our third segment of “From the Development Office,” the MPVA is extremely grateful to have another Advisory Committee member, and his business partner, featured in our Rollin’ Times Newsletter.

The MPVA’s Advisory Committee, which is made up of a group of dedicated business men and women who serve as professional advisors to the MPVA, has proven to be an enormous success that has allowed the MPVA to further it’s awareness and support.

This past year, the MPVA was delighted to find out

that Mr. Brian Sheridan was interested in becoming an MPVA Advisory Committee Member. Brian, a highly regarded advocate throughout the disability community, has actively involved himself in various sports events with the MPVA over the years. His fresh perspective and knowledge has made him a tremendous asset to our Committee. Please take some time to read the article Brian wrote with Mr. William Thornton about an extremely cutting edge, new facility called Level Eleven Physical Therapy.



Enriched Environments: Stimulating the Senses and Successes in Physical Rehabilitation

By Brian F. Sheridan, OTR William N. Thornton, MPT Level Eleven Physical Therapy

Going to physical therapy has never been considered a particularly “fun” activity. After all, having to receive therapy usually means something has gone wrong with our bodies. Maybe we have a bad back or shoulder or perhaps we’ve sustained a debilitating nervous system injury or disease. Traditionally, physical therapy has garnered a reputation of dry, sterile environments with very little that engages the senses and energizes the spirit.

During the last decade, several studies have been conducted in an area called “enriched environments.” Such therapeutic environments provide a constant variation of activities while tackling the senses from the moment you enter the room...or in this case, the clinic. Bright colors and lively music in an airy, open atmosphere, automatically get you feeling a little “pumped up.” By the time you start your session, you might feel more like an athlete in training than you do a



patient in treatment. Enriched environments are meant to motivate and engage individuals so that you want to work hard and you actually enjoy the experience. Science has shown that such motivation increases the potential for successful rehabilitation while potentially accelerating the rate of progress.

Level Eleven Physical Therapy in Grand Blanc Township has taken the concepts of enriched environments to an even greater level. A modern and very athletic clinical design, houses an impressive array of therapeutic technology from different parts of the world. Equipment, such as the “whole body vibration platform” and “neuromuscular electrical stimulation cycle” are innovative treatment modalities not typically found in rehabilitation centers. Engaging in Level Eleven’s “therapeutic boxing” or “all-terrain gait training” aren’t considered traditional therapy approaches by any means. The Level Eleven clinical environment is even customizable to personal preference. Patients are encouraged to bring their favorite music selection or

email their playlists from “YouTube” so that it can be broadcast on the clinic’s plasma television. If you have friends or family that would like to be part of your therapeutic experience, bring them along too; they may very well add to your enriched environment.

Physical rehabilitation should provide an experience that encourages an individual’s desire to get better and become healthier. Modern clinics should fully engage you while providing a variety of activities and exercises geared to maximize your therapeutic outcome. These enriched clinical environments are designed to help you progress faster and motivate you to succeed...and who knows, at the end of the day you just might smile and say “I had fun at physical therapy.”

Level Eleven Physical Therapy is an orthopedic and neurological treatment facility that specializes in the aggressive treatment of brain and spinal cord injuries. Tours can be scheduled by appointment.



Valuable Dates for 2010:

- **July 5th & 6th, 2010:**

Independence Day Holiday Observed
MPVA Chapter Headquarters will be closed

- **Mark Your Calendar for MPVA’s Annual Picnic:**

Where: Lake Shore Park in Novi
On Walled Lake
601 South Lake Dr.
Novi, MI 48375
Shelter #2

When: Sunday, July 18, 2010

Time: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

RSVP BY JULY 12, 2010!

PH: (248) 476-9000

- **Veterans Night at Comerica Park:**

Tuesday, July 20, 2009

Texas Rangers vs. Detroit Tigers

The MPVA wants you to join in on “Veterans Night at Comerica Park”

All MPVA members interested in going to this game should contact our Chapter Headquarters at (248) 476-9000

- **20th Anniversary of the ADA Observed:**

July 26, 2010

- **Membership Meeting:**

Thursday, August 26, 2010

Luncheon begins at 12:00 noon, and the meeting begins at 1:00 PM

Counting of Ballots for MPVA Board of Directors
(All meetings are on Thursdays at the Novi MPVA office unless otherwise notified)

- **31st Annual POW/MIA Recognition Day:**

Friday, September 17, 2010, 6:30 PM

Honor Michigan’s Prisoner of War and Missing in Action at Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens located at Twelve Mile & Novi Road in Novi, MI. Contact Ms. Marty Eddy at (248) 214-6398. For more details or see the inside back cover of this issue for more details.

- **Novi Town Center Presents: 5K Run, Walk, Wheel:**

In support of the MPVA and TIA (Triathletes in Action)

Saturday, September 25, 2010

Novi Town Center at Grand River and Novi Road
8:30 AM to 12:00 Noon

For more information contact Jaclyn Kochis at (248) 476-9000 ext. 06





Government Relations & Advocacy

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

MPVA Joins National Anniversary Celebration of the Signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

What is the ADA? The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is one of the most comprehensive civil rights laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of physical or mental disability. It was signed into law on July 26, 1990, by President George H. W. Bush, and later amended with changes effective January 1, 2009. The original Act was established to promote equal opportunities for persons living with disabilities into all aspects of daily life, such as employment, public accommodations, transportation, state and local governments, and telecommunications. The ADA was constructed into four major “Titles” with each concentrating on a category of accessibility. I have listed each Title below and highlighted the protections afforded to persons with disabilities.

- Title I – Employment: Employers may not discriminate against an individual with a disability in hiring or promotion of a person that is otherwise qualified for the position. Employers can ask about one’s ability to perform a job, but cannot inquire if someone has a disability. Employers must provide “reasonable accommodation,” such as job restructuring and modification of equipment when necessary.
- Title II – Public Services: State and local governments must remove communication and physical barriers that restrict people with disabilities from using their services and activities. Public entities must make every effort to integrate the disabled into their existing and future services, programs, and activities, and be able to communicate “with all of the public (telephone contacts, office walk-ins, or interviews), provide for the public’s use of the facilities, and allow access to programs that provide State or local government services or benefits.”
- Title III – Public Accommodations: Restaurants, hotels, theaters, doctors office, pharmacies, retail stores, museums, libraries, parks, private schools, and day care centers are mandated by federal law to remove physical barriers so that persons with disabilities can access the same goods and services as non-disabled individuals.

Private clubs and religious organizations are exempt. Auxiliary aids and services must be provided to individuals with hearing or vision impairments.

- Title IV – Telecommunications: Telephone companies must provide telecommunications relay services for hearing-impaired and speech-impaired individuals 24 hours per day.

Understanding what the term “Disability” means under the ADA:

Initially, an individual must demonstrate that he or she is qualified for the specified job. Then, to be covered under the ADA as a person living with a disability, one must identify themselves with one of the following definitions:

- A person with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities include caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working.
- A person with a record of such a physical or mental impairment
- A person who is regarded as having such impairment.

The ADA was landmark legislation that reaffirmed the rights that people with disabilities should have had at birth. The ADA is a tribute to the growth and organization of the disability rights movement but it should be clear that the ADA was not the starting point of United States disability policy. The ADA stands on the legal foundation of the “twin pillars”: the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The first pillar covered the philosophical foundation, the simple principle of nondiscrimination. The 2nd pillar offered a framework for applying nondiscrimination to persons with disabilities. These two legislative initiatives represent two streams of policy: civil rights and disability rights.

ADA Amendment Act of 2008 needed to clarify original intention:

It became apparent within a few years of the signing, that Federal courts, following the Supreme Court's lead, severely restricted ADA coverage in employment cases. For example, the Supreme Court decided that the law doesn't cover people who manage their disability with medication, technology or personal accommodation.

There was a need for modification to get back to the ADA's original intention. This was not the original intent of the ADA. The ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA) was introduced to re-establish these protections. It does not expand coverage, but restores its application to people intended to be covered by Congress in 1990. The ADAAA, signed September 25, 2008, clarifies that Congress intended the ADA's coverage to be very broad, and to cover anyone who faces unfair discrimination because of a disability. Congress wanted to place less emphasis on the definition of disability and more emphasis on whether discrimination occurred.

The ADAAA revises the definition of "disability" to more thoroughly encompass impairments that substantially limit a major life activity. The amended language also states that mitigating measures, including assistive devices, auxiliary aids, accommodations, medical therapies and supplies (other than eyeglasses and contact lenses) have no bearing in determining whether a disability qualifies under the law. Changes also clarify coverage of impairments that are periodic or in remission that substantially limit a major life activity when active, such as epilepsy or post traumatic stress disorder. The amendments took effect January 1, 2009.

Since Paralyzed Veterans of America's founding, generation after generation of PVA's leaders and staff have worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for disabled veterans. Programs and activities have expanded dramatically in size and scope to meet the needs of not only our members but also serving the needs of all people with disabilities.

On July 26th, 2010 MPVA, along with advocates throughout the country, will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the passage in 1990 of one of the nation's premier civil rights laws, the ADA. Celebrations will take place throughout Michigan that will look back at the progress that has been achieved and we will recommit our effort to ensure that the ADA is eventually fully realized.

MPVA will be participating in the festivities taking place at the State Capitol on July 26th. This will be an

opportunity to educate legislators in both Houses that increases awareness and understanding of the issues impacting people with disabilities and recognize the importance of providing the opportunities that will assure their full participation in community life.

As we observe the 20th anniversary of the ADA, we are in fact honoring the many thousands of people who sacrificed their time and talents to make the ADA become a reality. Much remains to be done to achieve full inclusion for all Americans with disabilities but it is without doubt a better world today thanks to the passage of the ADA.

Recently, MPVA signed a proclamation showing the chapter's support and commitment to the principles of equality and inclusion for people with disabilities as identified in the ADA. The 2010 "Proclamation of Recommitment" is a national campaign commemorating with the 20th anniversary of the signing of the ADA and a recommitment to the vision and spirit of the law.

The full promise of the ADA will be fully realized only if everyone remains committed in their efforts to fully implement the ADA. It is for that reason that MPVA is inviting "state and local governments, schools and colleges, businesses, organizations, service providers, and advocates" to join in a "Proclamation of Recommitment" to show their support for a civil rights law that has allowed people with disabilities equal footing with the rest of society.

Become part of this nationwide recommitment effort by submitting a proclamation at www.2010anniversary.org. The goal of the campaign is to collect 2,010 proclamations before July 2010.

The following websites will have additional information on the ADA:

- ADA.gov (ADA Home Page)
- PVA.org (Paralyzed Veterans of America Home Page)
- JAN.org (Job Accommodation Network Home Page)
- EEOC.gov (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission)
- Access-board.gov (United States Access Board Home Page)





By: Stephanie Strickland, Senior National Service Officer

Automobile and Special Adaptive Equipment Grants

In my every day job as a National Service Officer for Paralyzed Veterans of America, I continue to receive inquiries about entitlement to the automobile and special adaptive equipment grants and how to apply for them. In this article, I would like to share with our PVA members the most frequent questions that are asked about these types of benefits.

Can a Veteran Receive Financial Assistance from the VA to Purchase an Automobile?

Yes. Financial assistance, in the form of a grant, is available to purchase a new or used automobile (or other conveyance) to accommodate a veteran or service member with certain disabilities that resulted from an injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service. The grant may also be paid, if disabilities are a result of medical treatment, examination, vocational rehabilitation, or compensated work therapy provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The grant is paid directly to the seller of the automobile for the total price (up to \$11,000) of the automobile. The veteran, or service member, may only receive the automobile grant once in his/her lifetime.

What Disabilities Must You Have to Qualify for the Automobile Grant?

A veteran, or service member, must have one of the following disabilities to qualify for the automobile grant:

- loss, or permanent loss of use, of one or both feet
- loss, or permanent loss of use, of one or both hands or
- permanent impairment of vision in both eyes to certain degree

Does the VA Pay to Adapt a Vehicle?

Yes. Those qualified for the automobile grant, and veterans or service members with ankylosis (immobility of the joint) of one or both knees or hips resulting from an injury or disease incurred or aggravated by active military service may also qualify for the adaptive equipment grant.

Adaptive equipment includes, but is not limited to, power steering, power brakes, power windows, power seats, and special equipment necessary to assist the eligible person into and out of the vehicle. Contact should be made with your local VA medical center's Prosthetic Department prior to purchasing any equipment.

The adaptive equipment grant may be paid more than once, and it may be paid to either the seller or the veteran. After receiving a VA Rating decision granting entitlement to a veteran for the Automobile/Special Adaptive Equipment Grant, the veteran then needs to contact his/her local Primary Care Physician for a consult to have a driver's evaluation done. This driver's evaluation is only done at the Ann Arbor VAMC located at: 2215 Fuller Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105 (734) 769-7100 ext. 57311, and the person you need to contact there would be Carolyn Toomey.

Only after these steps are completed, should you then complete VA Form 21-4502 (Application for Automobile or Other Conveyance and Adaptive Equipment) and submit it to your PVA Service Officer or local VA Regional Office and start shopping for a vehicle. The veteran should keep in mind not to purchase a vehicle until it is authorized by the VA and has been approved.

How Can I Apply for an Automobile and/or Special Adaptive Equipment Grant?

The instructions on the VA Form 21-4502 contain a list of adaptive equipment that has been pre-approved for particular disabilities. Please note, after you complete and submit Section I of the application, The VA will complete Section II and return the original to you. You are responsible for obtaining the invoice from the seller, updating Section III, and submitting the form to your PVA Service Office or local VA regional office for payment.

If you are entitled to adaptive equipment only (i.e., service connected for ankylosis of knees or hips) you should complete VA Form 10-1394, Application for Adaptive Equipment – Motor Vehicle and submit it to your local VA medical center. Additionally, VA Form 10-1394 should be completed for approval of equipment not specified on the VA Form 21-4502.

In conclusion, I would like to add that if you have any questions on this or any other topic, please feel free to contact us at the Detroit Service Office at (800)795-3608.



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\$9,500
Call: (810) 735-5823



Sports & Recreation

By Scot Severn, Sports & Recreation Director

Thunder in the Valley

The 3rd annual Thunder in the Valley games were held once again in Saginaw on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University on June 4th-6th. This year, The Wheelchair and Ambulatory Sports Association Adult Nationals were also held in conjunction with the Thunder in The Valley games.



Photo Credit: Colin Johnson (*whimshot.com*)

The games were once again a huge hit with athletes from 10 states showcasing their talents in track & field events as well as archery, shooting, swimming, handcycling, and power lifting. Among the excitement, we were notified that the Thunder in the Valley also received International Paralympics Committee Sanctioning this year, meaning that the scores would be counted toward world rankings and athletes could qualify for the upcoming World Championships.

The event was officially launched on Friday with swimming, air rifle, and handcycling before the opening ceremonies on Friday evening. Competition on the track and field events was held on Saturday with the weather holding out just long enough for the athletes



Photo Credit: Colin Johnson (*whimshot.com*)

to stay dry. On Sunday, athletes in archery competed in the morning and were lucky that the rain once again stayed away just long enough to get the event in.

Later that afternoon, when the rain had washed away the wheelchair tracks, 16 national records had been



Photo Credit: Colin Johnson (*whimshot.com*)

broken and Wheelin Team 457 from North Branch took home the large-team trophy. Meanwhile, a group from St. Louis, known as DASA (Disabled Athlete Sports Association), won the small-team honors. Several awards and hundreds of medals for individual achievements were also handed out.



Photo Credit: Colin Johnson (whimshot.com)

Overall, the weekend was a great success! Athletes also had the pleasure staying at Saginaw Valley State University who had opened up their dorm rooms for the athletes to be housed at a rate of less than \$30 per night—a generous deal! If you would like to get involved with next years' event please visit the games website at: www.thunderinthevalleygames.com

Tight Line for Troops

On May 24th, 2010 about 160 veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan throughout Michigan participated in the 1st Annual Tight Line for Troops salmon fishing tournament on Lake Michigan in Manistee.

Thirty-seven fishing charters in Manistee donated their time, boats, and equipment to ensure that veterans had an enjoyable experience on Lake Michigan catching salmon.

Boat captain and fellow veteran Bob Guenthardt spearheaded the idea to honor the men and women that risked their lives for our freedom. Organizers say it took the whole community to put this event together, and they hope to make this an annual event.

Everyone that participated agreed that it would be doing an injustice to the event if you tried to put into words what actually took place in Manistee. For someone to personally experience the true impact of the event would require them to have actually participated in the event.

The evening ended with a dinner and award ceremony at the Little River Casino & Resort.



Sincere Condolences to the family of:

Jack A. Converse

Joseph B. McDonald

Patrick L. Smith

James E. Weaver



Member Hobbies

By Kevin Elya, President, MPVA

Recently, we have been exploring ways to better serve our Rollin' Times readers as well as our members as a whole. Upon reviewing other PVA Chapter's newsletters, we decided that it was time to hear from our members and see what they were busy doing. And so, it is my pleasure to introduce to you for the very first time: the "Member Hobbies" section of our Rollin' Times Newsletter. This feature will be the first of many.

Please enjoy learning more about Mr. David Peck, MPVA Board Member and Vice President, below. Please also feel free to contact Jaclyn Kochis at (248) 476-9000 ext. 06, or at jkochis@michiganpva.org, if you would like to write a featured piece for the Member Hobbies section of our newsletter! Come on, don't be shy! We would love to hear from you!



Opportunities Do Exist With Disabilities

By: David Peck, Vice President, MPVA Board of Directors

U.S. Navy Veteran, Vietnam, 1968-1969



I was just twenty years old and found myself living as a paraplegic with no trade or higher education. At home, I had a wonderful family who believed I would be able and willing to accept my new lifestyle if I had a new skill to focus on in order to obtain a balance of living and new sense of self-worth. I always felt that

I could do anything I put my mind toward and with the help of my family (who supervised the building of a workshop as I returned home from Vietnam) I ended up doing just that.

Living all my life in a community of wonderful friends and family allowed me to accept offers to learn



woodworking, canning of chairs, and refinishing of furniture. I set out to build a home to add on to the workshop I already had. With help from numerous individuals, the task was accomplished. From there, I realized I had lots of ideas, and with the use of my new knowledge I sought after a forty-one year journey of creating furniture.

With the passing of years, my hobbies have increased and new adventures have been experienced. I have traveled, seen my children become adults, and completed numerous projects in wood and refinishing. I enjoy hunting and had my first experience with Great Lake Fishing this past month. My favorite thing to do is mow the land around my home myself. I get such joy with the coming of spring and summer; the rebirth of nature and tasks that come with it. I also maintain our pool and keep up with the maintenance of all my "toys." In addition, my wife and I have also been able to do some traveling in each of the great states.

As for my furniture work, canning brings me the most joy. It is hard to find individuals who have this skill and I take pride in the fact that I can usually cane over twenty chairs a year, all sizes and styles. There are many of my finished products in my home and others as well.

Over the years, I have refinished my own dining room furniture, living room tables and my bedroom furniture. Birdhouses happen to be my children's favorites. In the fall, I look forward to various toy projects for my





grandson who is currently awaiting a special train engine that he can sit on and use his imagination.

I always look for new projects and hobbies to make my life enjoyable. I enjoy participating in MPVA sports events and have been competing in them for many years. I also had the luxury of participating in an African Safari Hunt which gave me the opportunity "to bring home" unbelievable memories and a trophy.

I have had the opportunity to talk with returning veterans and I have always tried to instill a sense of self awareness and knowledge that there is someone else who has gone through the same experiences. I have been blessed with the understanding and encouragement from my family and friends.

Looking back on the life I was given, I am thankful that I have been truly able to enjoy each and every day.



WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS

Darel D. Bowman

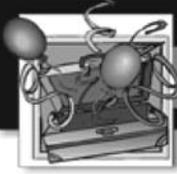
Richard T. Harner

Jackie L. Cobb

Denise P. Kellner

Robert T. Reed

We are proud you are part of the MPVA family!



BIRTHDAYS

JULY

Timothy D. Bishop July 01
 Gary L. Bennett July 02
 Mira K. Pierson July 04
 Michelle L. Marsh July 05
 Terry L. Novak July 06
 Joseph M. Salvia July 06
 Herbert J. Spring July 06
 Russell C. Stewart July 06
 Merlin L. Ihrig July 07
 Archie A. MacIntyre July 07
 James E. Willingham July 07
 Jerry S. Adams July 08
 Harry Gregorian July 08
 Gerald A. Baier July 09
 John R. Jacques July 10
 Denise P. Kellner July 10
 Bruce P. Chargo July 11
 Jason G. Peck July 11
 Gerald H. Talerico July 11
 Patrick M. Adams July 12
 Tom Boyd July 12
 Mark J. Cristao July 12
 Eric A. Gentile July 12
 Leon D. Renshaw July 12
 Ronald C. Richardson July 12
 John Dusa July 13
 Mark T. Ozanic July 15
 Alan R. Armitage July 17
 Elizabeth M. Barrentine July 17
 Thomas E. Hughel July 18
 Eugene E. Lindsey July 19
 Cleophus J. Teague July 19
 David W. Compton July 20
 George Y. Duffy July 20
 Keith B. Ingle July 20
 Gregory M. Ohanesian July 20
 Scot E. Severn July 20
 Curtis H. Arthurs July 21
 Peter M. Choreff July 21
 Robert K. Hamilton July 21
 Christopher A. Durant July 22
 Tim E. Leisner July 23
 Kenneth J. Vajcner July 23
 Brent W. Christensen July 25

John W. Dowdle July 25
 Richard P. Van Eenenaam July 25
 Kirk J. Dowding July 26
 Robert Robleski July 26
 Kelly F. Whalen July 26
 Steven B. Wilson July 26
 Elizabeth A. Greenwood July 27
 James M. Cisco July 28
 Teresa Kamphorst July 28
 Dwayne "DJ" L. Murray July 28
 James E. Rutherford July 29
 Carl E. Heath July 30
 James T. Jensen July 30
 Samuel L. Harding July 31
 Mary J. Pellerito-Barenbrugge July 31

AUGUST

Cheryl L. Angelelli August 01
 Diego E. Marrero August 01
 Heidi M. Plante August 01
 James A. Przybylo August 02
 Gerald W. O'Chel August 03
 Norman D'Angelo August 04
 Verlyn T. Kveen August 04
 Richard Mitchell August 04
 Richard C. Shellenberger August 04
 Calvin C. Schaub August 05
 Michael L. Schuman August 05
 Jay R. Dodge August 07
 Brian E. Ellicott August 07
 Jeffery S. Dawson August 08
 Douglas A. Freiburger August 08
 Clarence Hill August 08
 John N. Martel August 08
 Michael T. Monaghan August 08
 Ronald K. Derhammer August 09
 Fredrick George August 09
 Brian P. Kaule August 10
 Robert E. Colthorp August 11
 Michael J. Cortright August 11
 Daniel R. Keefer August 11
 Richard S. McKee August 11
 Don W. Downey August 12
 Jose L. Garcia August 13
 Robert J. Kaminski August 13

Joseph R. Bottang August 14
 Edward V. Lowery August 14
 Douglas W. Stone August 14
 Donald F. Wilkinson August 15
 Terence L. Austin August 16
 Dwayne Pingston August 17
 Charlene L. Baker-Rutland August 18
 James L. Bonilla August 18
 John A. Brezzell August 18
 Linda K. Highland August 19
 George E. Dolan August 20
 Tara Pearson August 20
 Mary A. Huber August 21
 John E. Mayer August 21
 Darren P. Seward August 21
 Mayqulla Y. Squire August 21
 Raymond R. Bruce August 22
 Robert W. Hayes August 22
 Gilbert D. Wantland August 22
 Florine L. White August 22
 John O. King August 23
 Joseph Lewis August 23
 Patricia N. Harris August 25
 Michael J. Jones August 25
 Rodney A. King August 25
 Irvin C. McCrimmon August 25
 Rex A. Roe August 25
 Jim J. Saliba August 25
 Michael J. Gambotto August 26
 Eugene J. Kovacs August 27
 Kay Sousa August 27
 Josie A. Boore August 28
 Kim L. Huber August 28
 Juan L. Medina August 28
 Gerald D. Wolffe August 28
 Timothy G. Grove August 29
 Robert H. Moore August 29
 Daniel L. Risch August 29
 Steven H. Geark August 30
 Wilbert D. Peal August 30
 Thomas E. Schlenkert August 30
 John Swierczynski August 30
 Chester V. Zack August 31

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40575 Grand River Ave.
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Presents
The 7th Annual
**Salute To
Veterans Gala**
SAVE THE DATE!

40550 Grand River Ave. • Novi • MI • 48375
PH: 248-476-9000

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

WHEN?

Wednesday,
November 10, 2010
6:00 PM-9:00 PM

WHERE?

VistaTech Center
Schoolcraft College
18600 Haggerty Road

WHO DOES THIS EVENT SUPPORT?

This is MPVA's largest annual fundraising event. Proceeds for this event go towards MPVA programs & other organizations serving Michigan's veterans. Visit www.michiganpva.org to see all of the photos and sponsors from the 2009 "Salute!"

Be a "Salute Sponsor" in 2010! Here's how you could be recognized:

- You or your company logo could be recognized on MPVA's website which receives approximately 800 hits a day and is also linked with the state of Michigan's website at www.michigan.gov
- You or your company logo could be recognized in our *Rollin' Times* newsletter which reaches more than 2,000 people every two months
- You or your company could receive tickets to attend the event and be recognized on site that evening

For more information, contact
Jaclyn Kochis, Director of
Development, at:

248-476-9000 ext. 06

31ST ANNUAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Friday, September 17, 2010

6:30 PM Observance

**Honoring Michigan's Prisoners of War and
Missing in Action**

"MICHIGAN REMEMBERS"

POW/MIA MEMORIAL

OAKLAND HILLS MEMORIAL GARDENS

Twelve Mile & Novi Road

Novi, Michigan

presented by

THE PRISONER OF WAR COMMITTEE

OF MICHIGAN

in cooperation with

OAKLAND HILLS MEMORIAL GARDENS

*Veterans Post/Chapter Colors
Wreaths and Flowers
are welcomed*

*Light refreshments will be served
after the ceremony*

P.O.W. Committee Contacts:

Marty Eddy, President 248.214.6398(c),

Marty@michiganpowmia.org

Debbie Piepsney, VP/Family Member, 734.395.4698 (c),

Debbie@michiganpowmia.org

Oakland Hills: 248.349.2784 (Phone)

248.851.2533 (Fax)



MICHIGAN PARALYZED
VETERANS OF AMERICA
A Member Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America
40550 Grand River Avenue
Novi, MI 48375

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July/August 2010



**Mark Your Calendar for
MPVA's Annual Picnic!**
**Where: Lake Shore Park in Novi
On Walled Lake
601 South Lake Dr.
Novi, MI 48375
Shelter #2**
**When: Sunday, July 18, 2010
Time: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
RSVP BY JULY 12, 2010!
PH: (248) 476-9000**

