

RT '26

Rollin' Times from the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America



Spring Edition 2026

About this Issue:

The MPVA has had a busy winter! Be sure to read this edition to find out what we've been doing and what is coming up!

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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.

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Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America

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Plymouth, MI 48170

(248) 476-9000

The Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) is a chapter of the 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.
- 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 Plymouth, Michigan. Our service officers are based out of the McNamara Federal Building in Downtown Detroit.

The Ad Agency

www.theagency.us (734) 678-7928



President's Report

By: Scot Severn, President, MPVA

Looking Ahead to the 2026 National Veterans Wheelchair Games

As we look ahead to this summer, one of the most exciting events in decades is the **2026 National Veterans Wheelchair Games**, taking place right here in Detroit, July 9–14. Nearly 600 disabled veterans from around the country will be coming to Detroit to compete in the physically challenging events. The National Veterans Wheelchair Games shift around the country each year with the last time the games were held in Michigan was 1987 in Ann Arbor. Most of this year's events will be held inside the Huntington Center (formerly Cobo center) and admission is free for attendees to watch.

For those who may not be familiar, the games are the largest adaptive sports and rehabilitation event designed exclusively for U.S. military Veterans with disabilities. They have been held since 1981 starting with just 77 athletes. More than just competition, the Games represent resilience, camaraderie, and the power of adaptive sports to transform lives.

This year is especially significant for us at MPVA. With the Games being hosted in our home state, MPVA will have one of its largest teams of participating athletes in several decades. Our members, representing our chapter, will compete in a wide range of events, from basketball and rugby to track and field, all while showcasing the strength and determination of our veteran community.

But participation at this level comes with real costs, travel, lodging, equipment, and team support. As a chapter, we are committed to ensuring that every eligible veteran who wants to participate can do so, regardless of financial barriers.

With over **350 Life Members**, our veterans living

with spinal cord injuries or neurological conditions, and approximately **150 Associate Members** who support our mission, MPVA is built on a strong foundation of connection and shared purpose. Now, we have an opportunity to come together in a big way.

We are actively seeking **sponsors and volunteers** to help make this year's Games a success.

If you or someone you know may be interested in supporting the Games, we encourage you to reach out to the chapter. MPVA can provide a ready-to-use letter that you can share with businesses you already have relationships with, making it easy to ask for support. If you prefer, you can also contact us directly, and we would be happy to reach out on your behalf.

Members and Associate Members who are interested in helping are encouraged to contact the chapter at **248-476-9000** or via email at bvansingel@michiganpva.org.

Hosting the Games in Detroit is more than a logistical advantage, it's a chance to showcase our community, honor our veterans, and demonstrate what is possible when support meets determination. The 2026 NVWG Schedule is available at www.wheelchairgames.org.

Together, we can ensure that MPVA continues to support our veterans, so they have every opportunity to compete and succeed at the Games.

Thank you for being part of what makes MPVA strong!



45th



NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

DETROIT 2026
JULY 9-14

CO-PRESENTED BY:

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
WHEELCHAIRGAMES.ORG

#WHEELCHAIRGAMES





Executive Director's Report

By: Brian VanSingel, Executive Director, MPVA

A Once-in-a-Lifetime Opportunity for MPVA

M PVA is proud to help host the 45th National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Detroit, July 9–14, 2026. This will likely be the largest event our chapter has been involved with in nearly 40 years and represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many of our members, families, and community supporters.

Whether you're a sports fan, a volunteer, or simply looking for a unique experience, I encourage you to spend a day in Detroit and see what the Games have to offer.

Throughout the week, attendees can enjoy Opening Ceremonies, where our Chapter President will have the honor of lighting the cauldron to officially begin the Games. More than 24 sporting events will take place, along with the Athlete Village Expo, vendor exhibits, a car show, Kids Day activities, and many other events. In just one day, visitors can watch more than 20 individual and team competitions. Best of all, admission is free.

As our Chapter President mentioned, we are actively seeking sponsors and volunteers to help make this year's Games a success. As the host chapter, MPVA will staff the first welcome table at the entrance to the Athlete Village Expo, greeting more than 1,000 athletes, family members, supporters, and visitors from across the country.

Volunteers Needed for the 2026 National Veterans Wheelchair Games

We are seeking volunteers to staff the MPVA Welcome Table in the Athlete Village Expo, greet attendees, and distribute event swag.

Interested in volunteering? Visit the MPVA website or sign up directly using the volunteer registration link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044EA5A622AAF5C07-61966264-national#/>

Please mark your calendar and join us for this historic event. If you, your family members, caregivers, or friends have questions about the Games, please don't hesitate to contact the chapter. I look forward to seeing many of you in Detroit as we help host the 45th National Veterans Wheelchair Games!





Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA)
46701 Commerce Center Drive
Plymouth, Michigan 48170
(248) 476-9000
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02 April 2026

Subject: Support Michigan Veterans at the 2026 National Veterans Wheelchair Games – Detroit, MI

Dear Community Partner,

Since 1961, **Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA)** has proudly served Michigan, making a difference in the lives of veterans, their families, and individuals with disabilities. Our mission is to enhance the quality of life of veterans with spinal cord injury or disease, as well as all citizens with disabilities, through advocacy, access to healthcare, and opportunities for recreation, education, and healthy living.

This July, our chapter has the honor of hosting the **45th National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG) in Detroit** (July 9–14, 2026). The NVWG is the world's largest annual wheelchair sports and rehabilitation event solely for military veterans. More than 600 veterans who use wheelchairs due to spinal cord injuries, amputations, and neurological diseases from across the country will compete in this week-long event, co-presented by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA).

Each year, members of our Michigan chapter attend the Games and consistently bring home several medals. For many of our veterans, participation is life-changing, promoting physical recovery, mental wellness, camaraderie, and a renewed sense of purpose. However, participation often comes with financial barriers, including travel, lodging, equipment, and training support.

We are reaching out to local businesses and community partners to help support Michigan veterans participating in this year's Games. Your contribution, whether through sponsorship or donation, will directly assist our athletes and ensure they can fully participate in this incredible event.

MPVA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and all contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Donations may be sent to:

Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA)
46701 Commerce Center Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170
(248) 476-9000

Please make checks payable to **MPVA** and include "*MPVA Wheelchair Team*" in the memo line. Receipts are available upon request.

Thank you in advance for your support of Michigan's veteran athletes and for helping us continue to make a difference. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss sponsorship options or answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Brian J. VanSingel
Executive Director
Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA)
bvansingel@michiganpva.org

Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Federal Tax ID: 38-6120911

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.

**Sponsorship Opportunities to support
Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America athletes
at the 45th Annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games**

Gold Level Sponsorship for Michigan Veteran Athletes - \$10,000

- 6 Social media posts provided by company on MPVA Facebook & Instagram (one post per month for six months)
- Full page color ad in our 2026 end of year member newsletter
- Company logo & contact information in our 2026 end of year member newsletter

Silver Level Sponsorship for Michigan Veteran Athletes - \$5,000

- 3 Social media posts provided by company on MPVA Facebook & Instagram (one post per month for three months)
- Half page color ad in our 2026 end of year member newsletter
- Company logo & contact information in our 2026 end of year member newsletter

Bronze Level Sponsorship for Michigan Veteran Athletes - \$2,500

- Company logo & contact information in our 2026 end of year member newsletter

Other sponsorship opportunities available

Contact Kristin, MPVA Outreach Director at:
810-266-0595 / outreachdirector@michiganpva.org
to secure your sponsorship today



Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America Rollin' Times Rate Card Price Per Issue

Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) is a nonprofit service organization that works to address the needs and concerns of veterans who have sustained an injury or disease of the spinal cord. You may not know, but, the MPVA services the entire state of Michigan! One of our largest resources is our quarterly newsletter. This magazine reaches all of our members and is posted on our website and social media.

**To reserve your spot contact, Brenda Wheater at
(248) 476-9000 or chapterhq@michiganpva.org**

Advertisement Size	Specifications	Cost
Business Card	3.5" x 2", black + white	\$50
Half Page	8.5" x 5", black + white	\$200
Full Page	8.5" x 11", black + white	\$275
Full Page	8.5" x 11", color	\$350
Half Page Back Cover	8.5" x 5", color	\$400



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Sports & Recreation

By: Lane Smith & Ray Brown, Sports Recreation

Editor's Note: In this month's Sports and Recreation section, MPVA Sports and Recreation Director Ray Brown recaps the MPVA-sponsored Billiards Tournament held in April and hosted by our longtime community partner, Wheelin' Team 457. This annual event brings together wheelchair users and able-bodied participants for a unique competition that promotes inclusion, sportsmanship, and awareness of adaptive sports.

RACK 'EM!

At 8:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, we began unloading wheelchairs for our Up/Down 9-Ball Tournament at Cascaddan Lounge in Metamora, Michigan. Setup and registration went quickly and smoothly. This marked the 19th year of the event, and our experienced volunteers once again proved their value.

Seventeen teams competed in this year's tournament. Our Director of Billiards, Jessie Wilcox, was on hand along with Mike Sexton from the American Poolplayers Association (APA), as well as numerous friends and family members who came out to support the event.



The concept of Up/Down Sports allows able-bodied participants to compete from a wheelchair, giving them a firsthand perspective of what sports look like from a wheelchair user's point of view. In a two-person team,



one player must compete from a wheelchair while the other remains standing—hence the name “Up/Down.”

The APA also uses this event to identify talented players with disabilities. For participants who are not already competing in league play, the APA encourages them to join so they can begin the qualification process for national competition in Las Vegas, the premier destination for billiards competitors.



A special thank-you goes to the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America for supporting this event since its inception. MPVA's commitment has helped make this tournament a success year after year.

We are already looking forward to next year's milestone 20th anniversary tournament! Nine-ball billiards

is also a popular event at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, and with Detroit hosting the 2026 Games, we look forward to showcasing the sport on an even larger stage.



MPVA Celebrates PVA Awareness Month at The Big House

To celebrate PVA Awareness Month, Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America welcomed more than 50 members, associate members, family members, and community partners for a special tour of University of Michigan Stadium, better known as “The Big House” on April 23, 2026.

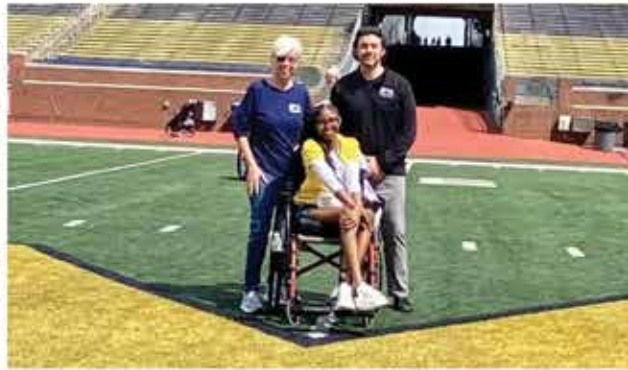
Participants enjoyed a beautiful spring day while exploring one of the most iconic venues in college sports. The guided tour included visits to the Jack Roth Stadium Club, the Michigan football locker room, the players’ tunnel, and the field itself. Along the way, our knowledgeable tour guides shared the rich history and traditions that have made The Big House a landmark for generations of fans and athletes.

One of the highlights of the day was experiencing firsthand the University’s commitment to accessibility. From start to finish, the tour was fully accessible, allowing everyone to enjoy the experience and participate in every aspect of the event.

We would like to extend a special thank you to our community partners from Wheels in Motion, Wheelin’ Team 457, and Walk the Line Recovery for joining us. We value the opportunity to collaborate with organizations that share our commitment to accessibility and community.

Most importantly, thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the day such a success. We enjoyed spending time together, celebrating PVA Awareness Month, and creating new memories with friends old and new. We look forward to seeing everyone again at future MPVA events and activities throughout the year.





U OF M STADIUM TOUR





Photo: Stephanie Strickland, Senior National Service Officer

New VA Transportation Funding Program

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced \$7 million in grant funding to improve transportation access for Veterans living in rural areas, especially those who struggle to reach medical care. Here is what that means:

What the funding is for

- The money will go to Veterans Service Organizations and state agencies that provide rides to and from VA or VA-authorized health care appointments.
- It is part of the Highly Rural Transportation Grants (HRTG) Program, which targets areas with fewer than 7 people per square mile.
- Transportation provided through the program is free for eligible Veterans.

Why these matters

- Many rural Veterans live hours away from the nearest VA facility, making consistent care difficult.
- The program aims to reduce missed appointments and improve access to essential health services.

Program scope

- The VA has been awarded about \$35 million since 2014 through this program across multiple states and territories.
- Individual grants can fund local transportation programs (often capped per rural area), expanding reach into underserved regions.

Big picture

This initiative is part of a broader VA push in 2026 to expand access to care, particularly for underserved populations like rural veterans. Transportation has been one of the biggest barriers, so this funding is meant to directly address that gap.

Who qualifies (veterans)

To use the transportation services (not apply for the grant), a veteran generally must:

- Be enrolled in VA health care through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Live in a “highly rural” area (fewer than 7 people per square mile)
- Need transportation to:
 - VA medical centers
 - VA-authorized community care providers

There is usually no cost to the veteran for these rides.

Who can apply for the grants

The funding does not go directly to Veterans—it goes to organizations that provide transportation.

Eligible applicants include:

- Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) (like DAV or VFW posts)
- State and local government agencies
- Tribal governments
- Nonprofits that already serve veterans

These groups then operate or expand transportation programs in rural areas.

What the money funds

Grant recipients can use the funding for things like:

- Purchasing or leasing vehicles (vans, shuttles)

- Paying drivers and coordinators
- Fuel, insurance, and maintenance
- Scheduling systems or dispatch support

It is specifically for transportation to health care, not general travel.

Where this has the biggest impact

The program focuses on:

- Western states (Montana, Wyoming, Alaska)
- Rural parts of the South and Midwest
- Tribal lands and frontier communities
- In many of these areas, veterans may face:
 - 2–4-hour drives to the nearest VA clinic
 - Limited or no public transportation

What does this mean in practice

If funded, a local program might:

- Run a weekly shuttle route to the nearest VA hospital
- Offer on-demand rides for medical appointments

- Coordinate volunteer drivers for remote veterans


This can directly lead to:

- Fewer missed appointments
- Earlier diagnosis and treatment
- Better long-term health outcomes

Limitations to be aware of

- Only covers highly rural areas (not suburban or moderately rural regions)
- Depends on whether a local organization wins funding
- Not all veterans in rural areas will automatically have access

For more information regarding this article, please visit <https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-announces-7m-in-rural-veteran-transportation-services-grants/>.

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Join Team Michigan PVA

45th National Veterans Wheelchair Games

Detroit | July 9–14, 2026

Admission is Free

See you at the Games!