

Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America

2006 Annual Report

Michigan Paralyzed
Veterans of America

40550 Grand River Ave.
Novi, Michigan 48375
(248) 476-9000
www.Michiganpva.org



Celebrating 45 Years of Service

In 1961 MPVA was established as a member chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America. Since that time, tens of thousands of veterans have turned to MPVA for services, information, advocacy, education, recreation, fellowship and most of all - hope.

It's gratifying that many of the goals our founders held are now every day reality for MPVA members.

We've seen tremendous advances in the treatment of spinal cord injury or disease. We have welcomed new technology that enhances the quality of life for our members. Just as we worked tirelessly in support of the 1991 Americans with Disabilities Act, we keep a steady eye on state and federal issues that have an impact on Michigan's veterans and all residents living with disabilities. We fund medical research on SCI and keep up to date on promising therapies in use in our country and throughout the medical world.

Even though we realize that many of the advances in SCI medicine today may not be available to most of us, we applaud those advances since they give hope that may well benefit another generation.

For the soldier who wakes in a hospital and joins the ranks of the spinal cord injured, hope is the most powerful medicine of all.

During the past year MPVA and our supporters have worked together to turn hopes into realities. As we continue our solid track record of accomplishments that you'll read about in this year's report we welcome you to get involved in any way you choose: as an associate member, as a donor, as a volunteer, or as a participant in our programs or special events. When you do, you'll meet people working together, making good things happen, and sharing with you a very special gift - the gift of hope. The veterans who protected our freedoms protected that, too.

Sincerely,
Kevin Elya, President

Our FY '06 Celebrating 45 Years of Service

Advocacy

MPVA's Presentations to the Board of Governors at Wayne State University and the Board of Regents at the University of Michigan made them aware of the ways each campus currently fails to meet the needs of its students with disabilities. MPVA continues to follow the progress of significant projects at each state-funded school and act as needed to advance the rights of disabled students, faculty, staff, and guests. Changes at Detroit Metropolitan Airport prompted the formation of a coalition to address the Wayne County Airport Authority regarding lapses in ADA standards and practices. MPVA assisted the Detroit Riverwalk Conservancy by reviewing architectural drawings and making on-site visits to the \$140 Million dollar riverfront project to ensure compliance with federal accessibility guidelines. MPVA continues to represent consumer interests on the Northwest Airlines Customer Advisory Board on Disabilities.



Service Office

\$3.5 million was paid directly to Michigan households thanks to MPVA Service Officers who assisted local veterans with free services in filing or re-filing claims for VA benefits. MPVA reaches out from offices in Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Battle Creek.

Communications

MPVA added sponsorship of the weekly radio show "Disabilities Today" (1400 AM WDTK) to its diverse communications efforts. We upgraded our membership publication "Rollin' Times" to a four-color magazine. Our website (michiganpva.org) moved to a new server, helping us keep the site up to date year-round. Thousands of visitors logged on to ThePumpGuide.com for information on statewide gas stations eager to assist disabled drivers with full-service fill-up. Michigan's Secretary of State enthusiastically promotes this free

service by including information in customer mailings

Legislation

MPVA worked with the Michigan Secretary of State in selecting first-ever voting machines specifically for citizens with disabilities. Single-family homes built with state funding will incorporate basic accessibility functions following passage of the MPVA-supported Inclusive Home Design Act. Future funding for the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund was secured as MPVA supported Public Acts 248 and 249 of 2005, reassigning the Tuition Grant Program to the Michigan Higher Education Authority and inviting citizens to fund these veteran benefits through a check-off donation made while filing state income tax forms. Liaison MPVA remains active in its work with VA hospital SCI/D Support Groups and with the University of Michigan Spinal Cord Model Care System in Ann Arbor. We connect with the leaders of Michigan's Veterans Homes in Grand Rapids and Marquette, and seek ways to enhance the quality of life for residents of those fine facilities.

Membership

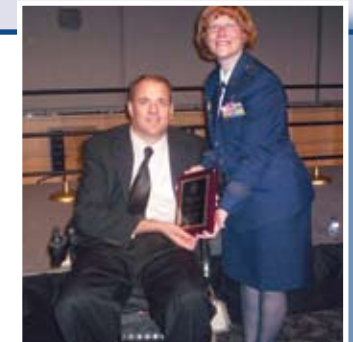
The MPVA community includes 278 service-connected members and 289 non-service connected members. We also welcome associate and corporate members in support of our mission. Our April Open House during Michigan Paralyzed Veteran Awareness Week featured corporate member displays and visits from the then PVA National Vice-President Gene Crayton, Congressman, Thaddeus McCotter and David Landry, Mayor of Novi.

Sports and Recreation

MPVA partnered with adaptive sports programs statewide to offer events for all ages and interests, including rugby, basketball, golf, air rifle, soccer, billiards, track and field, hunting, fishing, and, for the first time, softball. In another historic first, MPVA sponsored the Disability Division of the 29th Detroit Free Press / Flagstar Bank Marathon. 13-year-old Adam Rose was among the many handcyclist and wheelchair racing participants who braved Michigan's cold October winds to complete the 26 mile course along side 16,000 able-bodied runners.

Fundraising

MPVA's 3rd annual "Salute to Veterans" event drew 300 attendees to the Ford Conference and Event Center in Dearborn on November 10, where chapter President Kevin Elya presented Brigadier General Carol Ann Fausone with MPVA's prestigious Birdsong Award for distinguished service to veterans in the State of Michigan. Keynote speaker Ron Gettelfinger, UAW President and USMC veteran, reminded us of the unending sacrifices we have made, and will continue to make, for freedom. In 2006 MPVA was presented with generous donations from groups like the patriotic motorcyclist group Rolling Thunder # 5, of Brighton. The funds were raised in support of the Ann Arbor VA Wheelchair Teams' participation in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games held in Anchorage, Alaska.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
REVENUES		
PVA contributions	\$207,119	\$199,136
State grant	165,700	165,700
Fund raising	116,372	86,724
Contributions	45,252	65,785
Interest income	8,643	7,319
Membership dues	450	300
Other	928	7,711
Total Revenues	<u>544,464</u>	<u>532,675</u>
EXPENSES		
<i>Program services:</i>		
Membership benefits and services	310,161	304,812
Advocacy and government relations	88,323	84,811
Communications and public relations	78,684	43,656
	<u>477,168</u>	<u>433,279</u>
<i>Support services:</i>		
General and administrative	39,704	38,235
Fund-raising	67,327	55,953
	<u>107,031</u>	<u>94,188</u>
Total Expenses	<u>584,199</u>	<u>527,467</u>
REVENUES OVER EXPENSES (EXPENSES OVER REVENUES) FROM OPERATIONS BEFORE UNREALIZED GAIN ON INVESTMENTS		
	(39,735)	5,208
UNREALIZED GAIN ON INVESTMENTS	4,872	8,507
INCREASE (DECREASE) in UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
	(34,863)	13,715
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS, end of year	615,049	601,334
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS, end of year	<u>\$580,186</u>	<u>\$615,049</u>

MPVA Officers FY 06

- President.....*Kevin Elya*
- Vice President.....*David Peck*
- Acting Secretary*Patrick Adams*
- Acting Treasurer.....*Clark Schuler*
- Director*Michael Hogue*
- Director*John Dusa*
- Director*Kenneth Giotgio*
- Director*Quintin Williams*
- Director*Scot Severn*
- Director*Dale Weaver*
- Director*Vacant*
- Service Officer *John A. Brezzell*

MPVA Staff

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Maurice L. Jordan | <i>Executive Director</i> |
| Michael F. Harris | <i>Deputy Executive Director</i> |
| Jan Black | <i>Administrative Assistant</i> |
| R. Sue Dodea | <i>Development & Communications</i> |
| Bonnie Williams | <i>Service Officer</i> |
| Don Swale | <i>Office Maintenance</i> |

The mission of the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) is to enhance the lives of veterans with spinal cord injury or disease (SCI/D) as well as all citizens with disabilities, by advocating for civil rights, assuring quality health care, supporting continued research and education, and encouraging independence and healthy living through various health, sports, and recreation programs.

MPVA shall continue striving to remain at the forefront of both veterans’ benefit services and disability rights, while working toward a better quality of life for all American citizens.

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Celebrating 45 years of Service 1961-2006