



## Michigan Chapter

The Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) has been working to make a difference in lives of veterans and people with disabilities since 1961. The Chapter worked hard to offer more support, unique events, and fellowship to members and friends while continuing to expand our services this past year. I am proud to say that our organization continues to flourish. Our work to enhance the quality of life for veterans has been unwavering as we provide information, advocacy, education, recreation, fellowship, and above all—hope!

When I reflect on our yearly accomplishments, I am reminded of the mission here at the MPVA—we are an organization whose members are, above all, resilient and tough! Our members constantly adapt and demonstrate that they can overcome any obstacle. We have seen our members and community supporters prove this through their desire to be more inclusive and active.

The Chapter hosted a variety of events ranging in topic. MPVA's informational lunch and learns were a huge hit—including one on veterans benefits that allowed members and friends to learn and inquire about this a complicated topic. We were also proud to host membership events like our annual picnic at the Miracle League of Plymouth, and we supported multiple sporting events through our support of Wheelin' Team 457.

The Chapter dialed up all of our communications: through our social media posts, newsletters, and membership calls. We truly love communicating more with our members who are so outgoing and deserving.

I know that our Chapter feels extraordinarily pleased that we were able honor our veterans this fall with a Veterans Day outing at the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) which proved a worthwhile endeavor, providing a delicious lunch at the DIA's café, free gift bag with goodies, and a chance to honor our brave service men and women.

We have worked hard to maintain our eight mandated programs of service and are proud to give you a snapshot of those in this Annual Report. I hope you take some time to read through the following pages of this document and see the accomplishments that our friends, families, partners, committees, and members made during FY 2024. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every person that supported the MPVA—you are the reason we are able to continue carrying out our mission!

Sincerely,

*Michael F. Harris,  
Chapter President*

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**2024 Annual Report**  
**Making a difference since 1961!**

# Fiscal Year 2024

## Advocacy & Legislation

The MPVA's Advocacy Program works with congress, federal and state agencies, local communities, and in conjunction with other disability organizations, to ensure that our members and all people with disabilities have equal opportunities to participate in all aspects of American society.

The MPVA addresses the needs of veterans and others who experience spinal cord dysfunction or disabilities through interaction with government at every level. Combining expertise and experience with commitment and energy, the staff at the MPVA seeks to ensure that the needs of our members are considered as public official's debate issues and develop policies. We continue the work to guarantee that benefits and rights of all veterans and citizens with disabilities are protected.

In FY 2024, the MPVA had many accomplishments, some of them include:

- Monitored settlement agreements on numerous civil rights complaints filed in federal court against municipalities throughout southeastern Michigan for violating Title II of the ADA
- Continued to serve on The Senior Alliance Board of Directors where members review existing policies/procedures to determine if they can improve the lives of people with disabilities and to ensure that they can live as independently as possible throughout southern and western Wayne County
- Appointed by Governor Whitmer to serve on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Accessibility Advisory Board
- Informed and educated the public regarding disability rights laws, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and state and local buildings codes
- Worked as a member of the Coalition to Protect Auto No Fault (CPAN) to make sure that the Michigan's auto insurance industry fights to maintain the original no-fault promise it made to Michigan citizens when the law was passed in 1972

## Communications

Our newsletter, the "Rollin' Times," is sent to members and friends four times a year. Our website and social media pages bring you up-to-date news and information. Follow us on our website at: [www.michiganpva.org](http://www.michiganpva.org) or on our Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/michiganpva.org](https://www.facebook.com/michiganpva.org).

## Veterans Service & Liaison

The veterans benefits program has secured millions in new and current benefits claims for veterans and their survivors thanks to PVA's Service Officers who assisted local veterans with free services in filing or re-filing claims for VA benefits. MPVA reached out to offices in Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Battle Creek.

## Sports and Recreation

The MPVA supports many adaptive sports programs statewide. The Chapter participated in local and nationwide programs such as the National Veterans Games.

Wheelin' Team 457 was also able to host an array of sporting events for many of our athletes. We are so proud to support Wheelin' Team 457, which conducts seasonal hunting, fishing, bowling, billiards, and so much more throughout central Michigan.

## Membership

The MPVA currently reaches out to 343 members, all honorably discharged veterans with spinal cord injury or disease. We welcome 150 associate members, who join to show their solidarity with our mission and to participate in MPVA programs. Veterans with service-related injuries are members for life at no cost to them. Associate members pay a one-time \$50 fee. The MPVA's Board of Directors is selected from and elected by the members of our Chapter.

## Administration

The MPVA is proud to operate out of the Michigan Life Science and Innovation Center (MLSIC) located at: 46701 Commerce Center Dr. in Plymouth. Our location is conveniently located north of metropolitan Detroit between the Detroit VA Medical Center and Ann Arbor VA Medical Center.

## Fundraising

The MPVA hosted a Veterans Day outing at the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) in honor of our brave service men and women. We are so lucky to have our generous supporters help offset costs for this event! Sponsors and supporters of the event included: Edward Jones, Michael Harris, Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan, Reimage Life Foundation, Walk the Line to SCI Recovery, Wolfson Bolton, Kochis PLLC.

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	Assets Without Donor Restriction	Assets With Donor Restriction	Total
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash & Cash Equivalents (Note 2)	\$ 20,920	\$ -	\$ 20,920
Investments (Note 3)	1,050,420	385,936	1,436,356
Prepaid Expenses	2,292	-	2,292
Inventory (Note 8)	8,124	-	8,124
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>1,081,756</u>	<u>385,936</u>	<u>1,467,692</u>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property and Equipment (Note 4)	30,813	-	30,813
Accumulated Depreciation (Note 4)	(30,813)	-	(30,813)
Operating Lease - ROU Assets	2,690	-	2,690
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<u>2,690</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,690</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>\$ 1,084,446</u>	<u>\$ 385,936</u>	<u>\$ 1,470,382</u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable	\$ 4,601	\$ -	\$ 4,601
Deferred Revenue	12,555	-	12,555
Operating Lease Liability	2,740	-	2,740
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>19,896</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,896</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
Without Donor Restrictions	1,064,550	-	1,064,550
With Donor Restrictions (Note 6)	-	385,936	385,936
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u>1,064,550</u>	<u>385,936</u>	<u>1,450,486</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<u>\$ 1,084,446</u>	<u>\$ 385,936</u>	<u>\$ 1,470,382</u>

\*Audited financial report completed by Alan C. Young & Associates dated January 31, 2025.  
To request a copy of the Chapter's financial statement, please contact Jaclyn Kochis at:  
[jkochis@michiganpva.org](mailto:jkochis@michiganpva.org)

**Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America**  
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Non-Profit Organization  
Zip+4  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Plymouth, MI Permit  
No. 245



### **MPVA Officers FY 24**

President.....Michael Harris  
Vice President .....Robert Vance  
Secretary .....Clark Shuler  
Treasurer.....Timothy Agajeenian  
Director .....Ray Brown  
Director .....David Peck  
Director .....Scot Severn

### **MPVA Staff**

Jaelyn K. Kochis  
Brenda A. Wheeler  
Linda K. Highland

Executive Director  
Administrative Assistant  
Financial Officer

### **Our Mission...**

The mission of the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) is to enhance the quality of life of veterans with spinal cord injury or disease, as well as all citizens with disabilities, by: advocating for civil rights, assuring quality health care, supporting continued recreation, research, education and healthy living.

**Thank You for  
Supporting Our Mission!**  
[www.michiganpva.org](http://www.michiganpva.org)