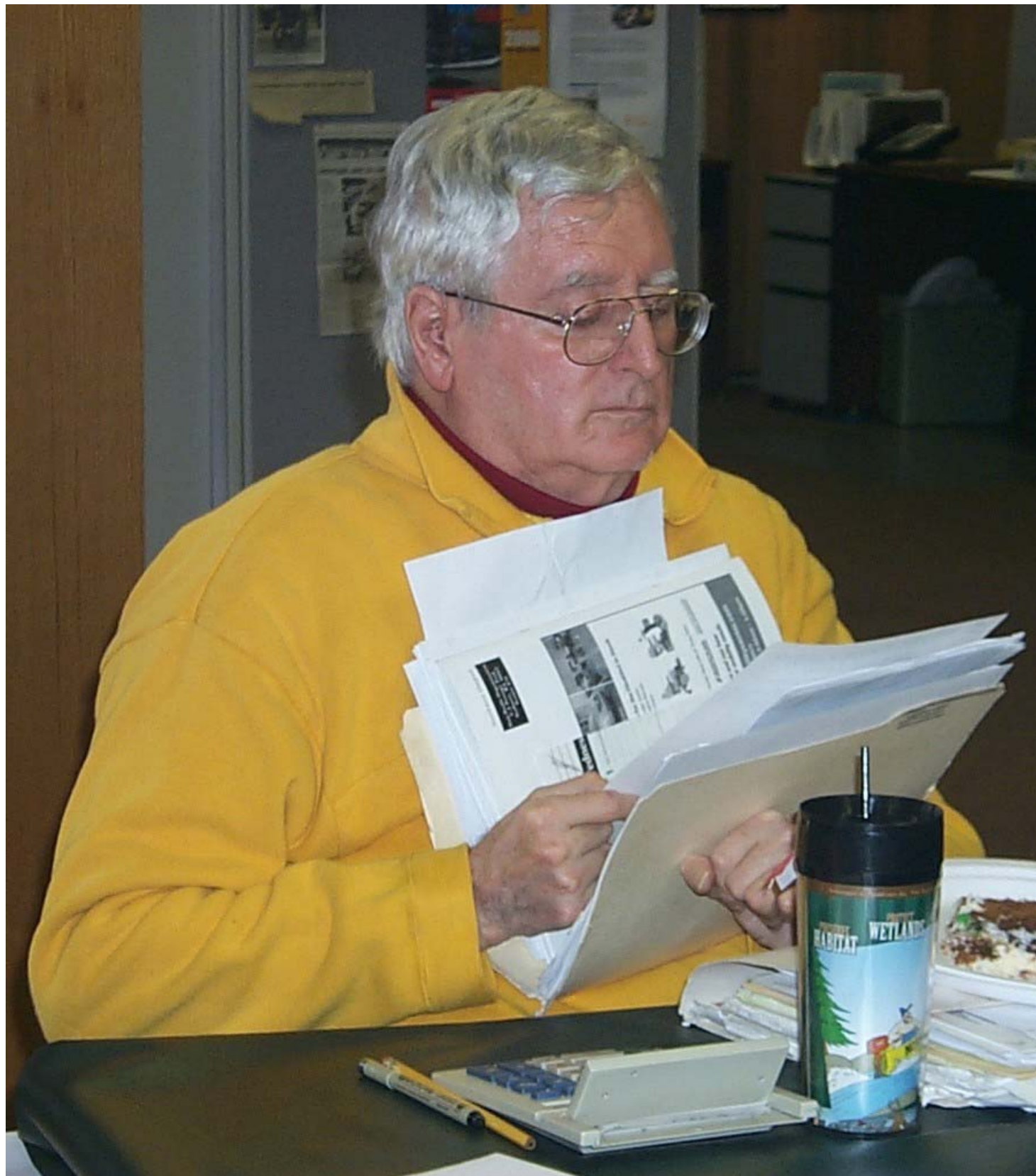




Paralyzed Veterans of America

Northwest Chapter

2014 Annual Report



Charles "Jerry" Lindsey October 17, 1934 - December 14, 2014

President's Message



In 2014, the Northwest Paralyzed Veterans of America (NWPVA) took on challenges of supporting our fellow veterans by advocating on issues of Veterans Affairs at local, state, and federal levels. Northwest PVA's mission has always been to help veterans to the best of their abilities. Northwest PVA has been aware of communities, establishments, or cities where there are violations of guidelines according to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). It's hard for the Northwest PVA advocacy team to be everywhere trying to find every circumstance where the ADA guidelines are not being met. Personally, I would like to ask all members to keep your eyes peeled for any discrepancies in your area that violates the ADA and bring the information to our attention. Advocating in the area where veterans reside will only help improve the quality of life for people with disabilities in the future.

NWPVA's success comes from people volunteering their valuable time and dedication to bring awareness of Paralyzed Veterans of America to the Great Northwest. Chapter volunteers have done this by attending numerous different functions; helping in the community, volunteering at the VA, and writing articles for the Northwest PVA newsletter, *The Outpost*.

Furthermore, I have been making regular visits to the Seattle VA Medical Center checking up on patients and talking to new injuries. It was quite concerning to see the increased number of people confined in the hospital as a result of pressure sores that could possibly have been prevented. My track record of prevention, having no pressure sores or redness anywhere had me believe I wasn't vulnerable for any skin issues. Wrong! Since early June, 2014, my overhead lift sling caused a small scratch on my upper leg. At the time, the sling was approximately 7 years old. I never thought of having it replaced or checked out. There was a protective barrier over the scratch, but I kept resuming the same activities and regime of 12 to 15 hours in my wheelchair.

A lot of great information came from SCI veterans concerning how to adapt the way we exercise and maintain healthy living as we age. When getting ready to attend your annual evaluation at the VA make sure to detail any questions about better living habits and examine all medical equipment for any wear and tear prior to your appointment.

Sadly, we ended the year saying good-bye to an old and dear friend, Jerry Lindsey. Jerry, known by most as MOCHA JERRY, was fond of his coffee, his dear companion Jenny, poker nights, and his Chapter. Jerry was an original founding member in 1979 and was our only Chapter Treasurer for decades. He enabled the Chapter to grow from Center Park Housing development in Rainier Valley to three locations in Burien until we grew to be front and center on "Main Street".

Jerry guided the Board in paying off the building and building a reserve that would last for a few years in the worst of times. We may forget that Jerry was Washington State's Outstanding Veteran of the Year in 1985, but we will never forget his passion for counting every penny spent to changing lives and making them better.

There are few giants that come our way in wheelchairs. Some are Presidents, like Jack Michaels, that lead us from chaining ourselves to buses to make the world accessible to Jerry Lindsey, who used his ability to make every dollar count to ensure NWPVA would last much longer than one of us; even the giants among us.

2014 Accomplishments

Chapter Administration

NWPVA's Chapter office is open daily from 9:00 AM until 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday in our chapter owned building. We currently have three (3) tenants, Empire Electronics, Traico, and Disabled Americans have Rights Too (DAHRT) In addition, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4314 holds their regular monthly meeting in our facility. NWPVA is in full compliance with all the reporting requirements of National PVA, Washington State and local governments and file our IRS form 990 with the Internal Revenue Service as required by our 501C3 non-profit tax status. All reports are available for public inspection at the chapter office. NWPVA in good standing with our National office and participates fully in all National meetings.

Liaison

The Chapter continues to have an active ongoing relationship with the VA Puget Sound Healthcare System's Seattle and American Lake's campuses. Our programs extend from direct donations to support Nurses continuing education and certification programs, to NWPVA's support of the PSHCS Fisher House, as this directly affects the loved ones of members traveling to Seattle for extended hospital stays. We also have continued the monthly pizza parties and our annual Christmas Dinner in the SCI unit dining hall and opening up the chapter to support Recreation Therapist with their programs. All in all the SCI Unit and NW Chapter relations continue to be strong.

Membership

Membership at the end of November stood at 207 service connected members and 249 non-service connected members for a total of 456 members. The Chapter will continue to work diligently for all our members in the coming years with our volunteer programs.



Service Office

As 2014 comes to an end, we would like to take a moment and reflect on the year that was and the changes we experienced and the impact of them on the Seattle Service Office and the Seattle SCI Office. In June, Duane and I switched offices and experienced some growing pains early while becoming accustomed to our new environment. Duane had to become more familiar and involved with medical benefits and health care that comes with being at a SCI Center, while I had to get accustomed to all the changes that occurred at the Regional Office after 8 years being at the SCI Office.

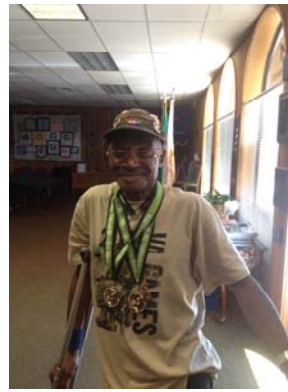
Even with the growing pains that follows any change and the amount of traveling as part of my collateral duties as the Area Manager or as outreach, we still had a productive year. The number of clientele we represent in prosecuting their claims before the US Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) stayed about the same taking seventy-three new power of attorney (POA). The Seattle Service Office continues to have over one thousand active POAs. The number of issues/claims we filed this year has decreased compared to prior years, filing over seven hundred claims/issues resulting in over 6.7 million dollars being awarded by the VA either as compensation or pension benefits for our clientele. We conducted over three thousand contacts by either phone or mail including two hundred personal interviews.

Hopefully, in 2015 things will settle down as for the office and we will be able to focus on increasing our productivity to a level while continuing to provide quality representation our clients deserve and come to expect of Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Sports & Recreation

Russ Norris is our new Sports Director. He will be working on bringing many new sports clinics to the NWPVA along with getting our Veterans Wheelchair Games Team and Winter Sports Clinic Participants set up and ready to participate in the future.





2014



Communication

Our Chapter Newsletter, the *Northwest Outpost* is published bimonthly and printed in-house. More than 600 copies are mailed out to members and other interested parties. Our website, www.nwpva.org is continuing as a source of chapter information for the public and members alike. As of our December 17, 2014 BOD Meeting our website will begin a several month process of being totally rebuilt with the help of our hired consultant, Scott Riley. In these ways, newsletter, website and in-house printing, we are able to better communicate effectively with members. Finally the chapter has hosted board meetings via an 800 call in line through National for Directors and Members hospitalized or ill who cannot attend the meeting.

Advocacy/Legislation

Of tremendous importance to the Chapter, Barrier-free design and access to public services and facilities continues to be the focus of our Advocacy efforts. Without these efforts items would have been passed over and the disabled community would suffer the consequences. Some members are taking advantage of the Accommodating Wounded Warriors program that TSA is providing to expedite travel for Disabled Veterans. To be eligible for this service, a Wounded Warrior or traveling companion should call the TSA Cares helpline at 1-855-787-2227, or email TSA-ContactCenter@dhs.gov, with itinerary information for the traveling party. Traveling companions will receive standard screening. The chapter continues to send a strong team to the Advocacy / Legislation Seminar each year and look for other opportunities to advance accessibility in the Chapter's areas. Within the State of Washington, the chapter has members serving on the 'Governor's Veterans Advisory Committee' and on the 'Veterans Legislative Coalition' keeping an active face at the State Capitol.

Fundraising

NWPVA continues to raise funds in a variety of ways. As in the past, the largest portion of our income comes from National PVA. The rest comes from programs conducted by the chapter. The National Trapshoot has become a solid contributor in our fund raising efforts. Individual donations and pledges made through the United Way of King County, The Microsoft Giving Campaign and the Employees Community Fund of the Boeing Company, along with regular member and community based donations all help us pay for our chapter programs. We are continuing our relationship with the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) as a non-profit organization eligible for federal employees of King County payroll contributions.



Financial Statement

<u>Assets</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 61,398	\$ 17,252
Short-Term Investments: Bonds & Money Market	221,673	221,406
Other Receivables	-	-
Prepaid Expenses & Supplies Inventory	3,180	1,960
Property & Equipment-Net of Depreciation	<u>275,168</u>	<u>283,244</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 561,419</u>	<u>\$ 523,862</u>
 <u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>		
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Accounts Payable	-	365
Funds Held in Trust	12,220	10,709
Payroll Tax Liabilities	1,202	127
Rent Deposits	<u>1,350</u>	<u>1,700</u>
Total Liabilities	14,772	12,901
 <u>Net Assets</u>		
Unrestricted	<u>546,647</u>	<u>510,961</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>546,647</u>	<u>510,961</u>
 Total Liabilities and Net Assets	 <u>\$ 561,419</u>	 <u>\$ 523,862</u>
 <u>Unrestricted Net Assets</u>		
<u>Support</u>		
Contributions	\$ 60,308	\$ 113,671
Investment Income	272	503
PVA Grant	155,000	141,250
Lease Income	10,530	7,180
Fund Raising-Newsletter Advertising	-	900
Other	<u>1,335</u>	<u>4,418</u>
Total Unrestricted Support	227,515	267,922
 <u>Expenses</u>		
<u>Program Services</u>		
Membership and Benefits	29,978	54,935
Public Affairs	73,836	114,171
Geo. B. Turner Research & Education	<u>17,231</u>	<u>20,522</u>
Total Program Services	<u>121,045</u>	<u>189,628</u>
 <u>Support Services</u>		
General & Administrative	38,305	55,790
Fund Raising	<u>32,479</u>	<u>37,765</u>
Total Support Services	<u>70,784</u>	<u>93,555</u>
 Total Expenses	 <u>191,829</u>	 <u>283,183</u>
 (Decrease) Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	 35,686	 (15,261)
Unrestricted Net Assets-Beginning	<u>510,961</u>	<u>526,222</u>
Unrestricted Net Assets-Ending	<u>\$ 546,647</u>	<u>\$ 510,961</u>



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Duane Hughes

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Our Mission

The Paralyzed Veterans of America, a congressionally chartered veterans service organization founded in 1946, has developed a unique expertise on a wide variety of issues involving the special needs of our members-veterans of the armed forces who have experienced spinal cord injury or dysfunction.

PVA will use that expertise to be the leading advocate for:

- *Quality health care for our members,*
- *Research and education addressing spinal cord injury and dysfunction,*
- *Benefits available as a result of our members' military service,*
- *Civil rights and opportunities which maximize the independence of our members.*

To enable PVA to continue to honor this commitment, we must recruit and retain members who have the experience, energy, dedication, and passion necessary to manage the organization and ensure adequate resources to sustain the programs essential for PVA to achieve its mission.

The Northwest Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America (NWPVA) a member chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America accomplishes it's mission by coordinated efforts through programs that:

- *Provide opportunities for health promotion, recreation, employment, sports and recreation, service and camaraderie for paralyzed veterans;*
- *Elevate society's information level about the attitudinal, physical and legal barriers that confront persons with disabilities in order to influence the removal of those barriers;*
- *Advocate for and monitor the delivery of high quality and appropriate health care benefits and service;*
- *Cooperate with and seek the support of other groups and individuals that share NWPVA's objective;*
- *Educate the public with the current and ongoing needs and current and past contributions of America's veterans.*

NWPVA Officers FY 2015

President-Thomas Bungert
 Vice President-Tom Knoppi
 Secretary-Gary Lieberg
 Treasurer-Aaron Hastings
 Past President-R. Patrick Carpenter
 National Director-Michael Partridge

NWPVA

Board of Directors

Duane Osborn Joe Sapienza
 Ernie Butler Terry Chenoweth
 Sean Halsted David Zurfluh

NWPVA Appointees

Sports Director-Russ Norris
 Fundraising Chairman-
 Brent King
 Membership & Advocacy Director -
 Tom Bungert
 Outpost Editor-Lisa Lawrence
 Legislative Director-
 Michael Partridge
 Seattle VA Hospital Liaison-
 R. "Patrick" Carpenter

Staff

Executive Director-Brent King
 Office Manager-Lisa Lawrence

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