



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Northwest Chapter

**2015
Annual Report**



President's Message



This year has been quite busy for the Northwest Paralyzed Veterans of America in helping address members' health care issues by advocating at local, state, and federal levels. One of our organizational mission's is making the healthcare of our members a high priority. Through PVA's SCI Site Visit and PVA's National Service Officers we were able to resolve many issues and continue to work to solve problems that have lingered for years.

This year our website has been completely rebuilt in an attempt to provide our members and others with vital information and resources. If anyone knows of a good resource website for important information not on our resource page or blog, please contact the Chapter Office. Another high priority goal is for veterans and all people with disabilities to be able to access a library of resources to make a better quality-of-life for themselves and their families.

Over this last past year we have made new bonds with various companies, and renewed old friendships. Their dedication in sponsoring Northwest PVA has been instrumental in helping us develop new programs for our members. One of the most important programs has been the social work emergency fund for our members that the VA cannot provide. The words "thank you" would be an understatement in expressing how much our members appreciated our new programs.

My goal is not only serve to the best of my ability, but make the Northwest PVA better than last year. Members made a tremendous difference in making my rehabilitation at Seattle VA, and I just want to give back to this great organization and its members. Thank you for your trust in me and I promise to continue serving to the best of my ability

My hopes and prayers are for everyone to have a great 2016. If you need to contact me for any reason, please go to our website (nwpva.org), or use my email address: thomasbungert@nwpva.org. I want to hear if anyone has any questions or concerns.

May the God of us all bless you, your family and keep you safe.

Thomas Bungert



2015 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 Therapists 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 250 non-service connected members for a total of 457 members. The Chapter will continue to work diligently for all our members in the coming years with our volunteer programs.

Service Office

As 2015 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. At the end of August, Duane retired after 7 1/2 years with PVA. While things were just starting to settle down and everyone getting more comfortable with their new roles, things got turned upside down with myself trying to cover two offices and develop a training program for the Western Region.

In December, we hired a new Veterans' Health and Benefit Specialist (VHBS), Mr. Joshua Wheeldon. His office is on the VA Spinal Cord Injury Unit. We have moved back into our office, while we wait on some furniture to arrive. Please stop by to say hello and get to meet him.

Even with these changes, we still had a productive year. We ended up getting 41 new Power of Attorneys. The number of issues/claims we filed this year continue to decrease compared to prior years, filing over six hundred claims/issues resulting in over 5.4 million dollars being awarded by the VA either as compensation or pension benefits for our clientele. We conducted over twenty-seven hundred contacts by either phone or mail including sixty personal interviews.

Hopefully, in 2016, things will stabilize allowing us to settle down as for both offices and 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

The chapter is slowly adding to our air rifle collection to have the equipment to practice shooting in our warehouse. We also want to increase our trapshooting membership participation. We have some updated trapshooting equipment and a new safe to store it all too. Please inquire about joining us and we'll set up some practices with safe instructors at a range near you. The chapter continues to support members that want to participate in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games and the Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. If you have a sport you want to try, notify us and we'll do all we can to help you achieve your goals!





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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 newly redesigned website, www.nwpva.org is continuing as a source of chapter information for the public and members alike. 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. 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.

This year we experience a substantial increase in revenue. This was due to a combination of staff salary savings, new donations, and continuing support from traditional sponsors. Our new donations included the *Ames Bros*, a continuing grant from *Others First*, and continuing support from *Absolute Mobility* and *Kersey Mobility*.



Financial Statement

<u>Assets</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 26,427	\$ 61,398
Short-Term Investments: Bonds & Money Market	321,673	221,673
Other Receivables	-	-
Prepaid Expenses & Supplies Inventory	2,120	3,180
Property & Equipment-Net of Depreciation	<u>265,463</u>	<u>275,168</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 615,683</u>	<u>\$ 561,419</u>
 <u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>		
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Accounts Payable	-	-
Funds Held in Trust	11,685	12,220
Payroll Tax Liabilities	151	1,202
Rent Deposits	<u>1,350</u>	<u>1,350</u>
Total Liabilities	13,186	14,772
 <u>Net Assets</u>		
Unrestricted	<u>602,497</u>	<u>546,647</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>602,497</u>	<u>546,647</u>
 Total Liabilities and Net Assets	 <u>\$ 615,683</u>	 <u>\$ 561,419</u>
 <u>Unrestricted Net Assets</u>		
<u>Support</u>		
Contributions	\$ 72,926	\$ 60,378
Investment Income	7	272
PVA Grant	163,275	155,000
Lease Income	11,580	10,530
Fund Raising-Newsletter Advertising	-	-
Other	<u>200</u>	<u>1,335</u>
Total Unrestricted Support	247,988	227,515
 <u>Expenses</u>		
<u>Program Services</u>		
Membership and Benefits	35,151	29,978
Public Affairs	71,683	73,836
Geo. B. Turner Research & Education	<u>18,876</u>	<u>17,231</u>
Total Program Services	<u>125,710</u>	<u>121,045</u>
 <u>Support Services</u>		
General & Administrative	38,843	38,305
Fund Raising	<u>27,585</u>	<u>32,479</u>
Total Support Services	<u>66,428</u>	<u>70,784</u>
Total Expenses	<u>192,138</u>	<u>191,829</u>
 (Decrease) Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	 55,850	 35,686
Unrestricted Net Assets-Beginning	<u>546,647</u>	<u>510,961</u>
Unrestricted Net Assets-Ending	<u>\$ 602,497</u>	<u>\$ 546,647</u>



**National Service Officer
Michael Killen**

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NWPVA Officers FY 2015

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

NWPVA

Board of Directors

Duane Osborn Joe Sapienza
Russ Norris 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

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.

Northwest Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America

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