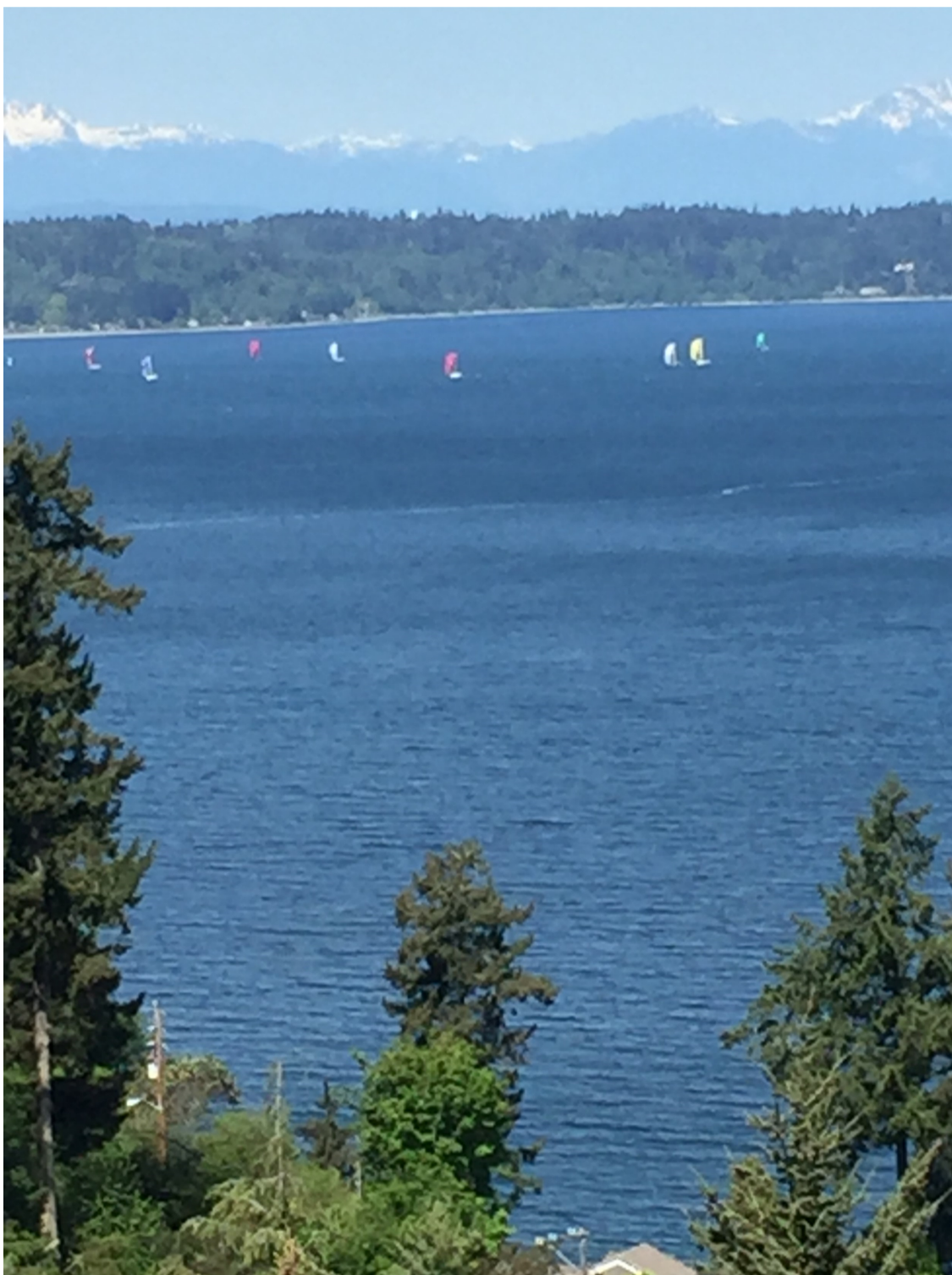




Paralyzed Veterans of America

Northwest Chapter



# 2022 Annual Report

# President's Message



The Northwest Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America (NWPVA) present's to all of interest, our Annual Report for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2022. As in past years, this annual report, and supporting documentation was produced by your Northwest PVA Officers & Board of Directors, an independent CPA, our Northwest Executive Director, and your Northwest Office Manager. The chapter continues to keep exploring new Partnerships and Sponsorships through grants and donations with different business and opportunities. Always moving forward, we continue to strive toward the mission of advocating for our Members' in healthcare, benefits, research & education, programs, and civil rights & opportunities. Northwest PVA also continues our efforts by reporting any issues with VHA Directive 1176(2). This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) directive defines the policies, procedures, standards, requirements, and operations of the Spinal Cord Injuries and Disorders (SCI/D) Systems of Care. During my tenure, it has been a great experience leading the Northwest Chapter as President and advocating for members rights.

We continue strengthening the PVA mission; by keeping national programs organized, supporting SCI/D research & education programs, and advocating for while working with local Veteran & Community organizations. Even with the ending of the pandemic and the VA's seemingly irregular progress, the Northwest Chapter remained steadfast in advocating for reasons that are truly noteworthy; Northwest stood in remembrance and placed a wreath on each of the military memorials on the Washington State Capital grounds on Memorial Day. Northwest took part in the Auburn Veterans Day Parade; this year's parade was sunny & cool, and full of smiles, while maintaining a time honored respect. Inpatients at Seattle's SCI Unit were treated throughout the year yet again by Northwest; with multiple deliveries of gourmet pizza that always came piping hot and yummy!! I would like to thank our Partners & Sponsors, our past and current elected and appointed Officers & Board of Directors, our Associate Members, the General Membership, and our families. We believe this annual report reflects the Teams' transparent effort and due diligence in achieving and meeting our membership goals.





# 2022 Accomplishments

## Fundraising

We continue to enjoy the very generous donations from our outstanding donors that know we give back to our Veterans. Thank you so very much to the Seattle Foundation, The Absolute Mobility Center, The Ability Center, Others First, and Comcast. We are incredibly grateful to the many individual donors that open their hearts with large and small donations too!

## Chapter Administration

NWPVA's Chapter Office maintains its weekday operation from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM (PST) in our own building and rent space to other organizations that share our common values, like the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled Americans Have Rights Too (DAHRT), and Merging Vets & Players (MVP). Best Vacuum of Burien is our new retail renter. We continue to be in full compliance with federal, state and local reporting requirements and all reports are available for public inspection by request at the Chapter Office, and continue to be in Good Standing with PVA.

We continue to maintain a two lane competition air rifle range in the warehouse for our membership to practice for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.



Our chapter parking lot is maintained with its new asphalt sealing, striping, and signage. The chapter will continue to perform general and necessary maintenance.

We also support a downtown Burien merchant's Halloween *Trick or Treat (Boo In Burien)*! The event brings over a thousand children and their families to Burien and the Chapter Office to celebrate community. A spooky great time is always had by all!



## Communication

Our Chapter Newsletter, the *Northwest Outpost* is published bimonthly. More than 600 copies are mailed out to members, community members, donors, and other interested parties after each printing. Our revised website, [www.nwpva.org](http://www.nwpva.org) is another valued source of information for the public and members alike and is updated monthly. We utilize our newsletter, website, and calendar to communicate what is happening with the NWPVA to our members. The chapter has hosted board meetings monthly via Zoom for Directors and Members hospitalized or ill who cannot attend the meeting in person. Finally, our *Annual Report* provides transparency of our operations and we are proud to provide a copy to our community partners and donors to show them how they help us to help others.

We continue reporting the Chapter Board and General Membership meeting Minutes to provide a more complete correspondence record for the archives.

# National Service Office

This is the first year in a while where we are not discussing anyone coming or going. We now have some stability in the offices. Dan entering his second year with PVA and completing his training next month. Renee celebrated her 5<sup>th</sup> year with PVA in April. I just celebrated my 22<sup>nd</sup> year with PVA.

As we are starting to focus on 2023, we want to take a moment and look back at what was accomplished in 2022, the good and the bad. While we were able to increase the number of new power attorneys (POA) taken in 2022 to 79. This is a significant increase compared to the 2021 where we only had 31. We did experience a decrease in the overall number of clients we represent from 1014 in 2021 to 1003 in 2022. We expect to see a turn in this coming year due to being involved in more clinics and in the hospital. We saw an increase in the number of interviews conducted in the office or through VA Video Connect (VVC) or at bedside from 152 in 2021 to 209 in 2022. We continue to participate in the ALS Clinic and working with the Social Workers to see hospitalized veterans. We had over 1,058 contacts with clients last year. We did experience a decrease in the number of claims/issues (530) filed last year compared to 2021 when we filed over 700 claims/issues resulting in \$6.5 million in benefits being awarded. This is still a significant amount of being awarded considering we are still down a National Service Officer (NSO) and Dan focused on completing his training.

As always, we look forward to the challenges 2023 will bring.

## Outreach

The Northwest Chapter continues to have an active partnership with the VA Puget Sound Healthcare System (VAPSHCS), The Spokane VAMC SCI Spoke and the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA). We work with our PVA Service Officers to improve spinal cord injury and disease care at the VA Puget Sound Seattle, American Lake, and Spokane VAMC campuses. Seattle's Spinal Cord Injury Director has monthly scheduled meetings with our Northwest Chapter President. Our Northwest Chapter President is a member of PVAs National Facility Advocate Committee (FAC), WDVA Veterans Affairs Advocacy Committee, Representative on the Seattle VAPSHCS Volunteer Committee, and is on the Seattle VAPSHCS Director's & SCI Peer Mentor Committee. Our Northwest Chapter Executive Director is on the Spokane VAMC Director's Advisory Board, Representative on the Spokane VAMC Volunteer Committee. The Northwest Chapter Executive Director is also on the Seattle Internal Review Board (IRB) to give input/oversight on Veterans studies within the local VA system.

We continue to support requests for funding for equipment and education as well as providing slices of hot gourmet pizza to our inpatient membership when allowed. COVID has only put a small damper on providing some things to our inpatient membership, we will keep bringing back these services as permitted. We also provide the wake-up juice "coffee" to the Seattle Spinal Cord Injury Unit inpatients as needed. We had our 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet as our most noted event this year. It was a wonderful venue, planned out and produced by key membership.

Our membership always participates in the Auburn, Washington "Annual Veterans Day Parade" with our chapter parade car. This year's parade membership attendance was wonderful, it has been a while since we have

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had a great sun shinny day to walk and roll down the parade strip. Our Membership looks forward to participation in next year's parade which will be on Veterans Day.

Our outreach program extends to WDVA's nursing homes where we have a volunteer that is an active advocate for disabled recreation to include fly fishing and various activities. On Memorial Day, our membership places large memorial wreaths with a NWPVA streamer at each of the Veterans memorials on the Washington State Capital in Olympia, WA.

## Sports & Recreation

Our membership continues to be involved in a vast array of sport and recreation opportunities throughout the Northwest. We participate in wheelchair basketball, curling, hunting, fishing, hand cycling, pickle ball, adaptive golf, sled hockey, weightlifting, kayaking, scuba diving and indoor adaptive climbing.

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games is always a big hit for those that can attend. Covid has changed the way we participate, but the games are continuing. The National Veterans Winter Sports Clinic is also on the schedule this year. There are many other events out there. Let us know what you would like to participate in for your future goals. Reach out to the Northwest Chapter, we are always here to listen.





# Membership

**M**embership continues to be stable. We have 203 service connected members and 191 non-service connected members, for a total of 394 members. We will continue to increase our membership through our outreach and service programs.

We will remember all of our members who are no longer with us.

# Advocacy / Legislation

**W**e again utilized the presentation and speaking skills of new and old delegation from the Northwest Chapter to reach out to our Senators and Representatives for PVA's Advocacy/Legislation week. For 2022 we did all meetings virtually. We are scheduling for all in person meetings in Washington DC for 2023. Our delegation, together with PVA, and all the other chapters and Veterans Service Organizations contribute to the Independent Budget (IB), the goal being to have the necessary funding each year to keep the VA functioning smoothly to care for all Veterans.

- Strengthen and improve the VA Health Care System.
- Strengthen VA Benefits for Catastrophically Disabled Veterans and their Surviving Dependents.
- Strengthen and Protect the Systems and Civil Rights that Support People with Disabilities.

Our delegation did very well in 2022 with our membership's Senators and Representatives, they provided us a proper amount of time to speak with them and get our main points of concern known.





## Financial Statement

<u>Assets</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 77,783	\$ 77,050
Short-Term Investments: Bonds & Money Market	479,720	404,720
Supplies Inventory	1,537	1,537
Property & Equipment-Net of Depreciation	<u>211,024</u>	<u>218,801</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 770,064</u>	<u>\$ 702,108</u>
<u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>		
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Accounts Payable	-	-
Payroll Tax Liabilities	1,142	-
Rent Deposits	<u>1,850</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>2,992</u>	<u>1,000</u>
<u>Net Assets</u>		
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	<u>767,072</u>	<u>701,108</u>
Total Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	<u>767,072</u>	<u>701,108</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 770,064</u>	<u>\$ 702,108</u>
<u>Unrestricted Net Assets</u>		
<u>Support</u>		
Contributions	\$ 159,381	\$ 125,505
Investment Income	12	1,882
PVA Grant	164,712	147,114
Lease Income	12,065	12,500
Fund Raising-Newsletter Advertising	-	<u>2,400</u>
Total Unrestricted Support	336,170	289,401
<u>Expenses</u>		
<u>Program Services</u>		
Membership and Benefits	74,704	99,688
Public Affairs	93,537	83,224
Geo. B. Turner Research & Education	<u>37,600</u>	<u>53,749</u>
Total Program Services	<u>205,841</u>	<u>236,661</u>
<u>Support Services</u>		
General & Administrative	36,442	33,016
Fund Raising	<u>27,923</u>	<u>23,760</u>
Total Support Services	<u>64,365</u>	<u>56,776</u>
Total Expenses	<u>270,206</u>	<u>293,437</u>
(Decrease) Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets Without Donor Restriction	65,964	(4,036)
Net Assets Without Donor Restriction-Beginning	<u>701,108</u>	<u>705,144</u>
Net Assets Without Donor Restriction-Ending	<u>\$ 767,072</u>	<u>\$ 701,108</u>





## **PVA National Service Officers**

**Michael Killen**  
**Senior Benefits Advocate**  
 SCI Office, Seattle  
 1660 S. Columbian Way  
 Room 1-B-163  
 Seattle, WA 98108  
 206-768-5415

**Dan Stewart**  
**National Service Officer Candidate**  
 Henry Jackson Federal Building  
 Room 1054  
 915 Second Ave.  
 Seattle, WA 98174  
 206-341-8210

## **Northwest PVA Leadership**

Matthew Mickunas-President  
 Robert Clinton-Vice President  
 Andrew Bechtle-Secretary  
 Aaron Hastings-Treasurer  
 Matthew Mickunas-National Director  
 David "Russ" Norris-BOD  
 Michael Partridge-BOD  
 Terry Chenoweth-BOD  
 Tracy Storms-BOD  
 David Zurfluh-BOD  
 Thomas Bungert-BOD  
 Fred Margiotta-BOD  
 Victor Tran-BOD

## **Northwest PVA Appointees**

Sports Director-Russ Norris  
 Fundraising Chairman-  
 Brent King  
 Membership Director & Advocacy/  
 AB Coordinator-Tom Bungert  
 Legislative Director-  
 Michael Partridge  
 Volunteer Coordinator-  
 Robert Clinton  
 WDVA Liaison-  
 Matthew Mickunas  
 Outpost Editor-Lisa Lawrence

## **Northwest PVA 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.*

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