



A Member Chapter of the  
**Paralyzed Veterans of America**  
Aggressive Advocates for an Accessible America

# 2008 Annual Report



# President's Message



In my first year our chapter hosted a PVA Circuit Trap Shoot in Sumner, WA that was so well run and organized, we get to do it next year and hopefully years to come. (Kudos to Ernie and Mike) We also beautified and remodeled the outside of our chapter office building, due to suggestions by our membership. The chapter continued to implement and run the chapter programs we have run in the past within our budget.

This year 09 myself, our BOD, NSO and our Hosp. Liaison will monitor the SCI unit remodel. The chapter also is helping with and acting as host chapter for NVWG in Spokane. My personal focus will be getting members more involved in our chapter!

I want to hear your ideas for 09! Please call, email or come into the chapter on Tuesdays to let me know your wishes, concerns or ideas. Your ideas and wishes led to the chapter remodel!!!

Thank you to our Staff, BOD, Volunteers and Membership, you've had a really positive influence on me this past year!

## 2008 Accomplishments

### Chapter Administration

The Chapter office continues to be open Monday – Friday during normal business hours in the chapter owned building. We still have the same 4 tenants renting space within the building and in this economy we are thankful for that. NWPVA is in full compliance with all the reporting requirements of PVA National, state and local governments and our form 990 with the Internal Revenue Services as required by our 501c3 status. Some of the reporting requirements required new methods of reporting donation expenses, which in turn changed our chapter donations to program expense ratio lower. We are still well respected in this regard showing the chapter as being at better than 70 %.

### Fundraising

This past year, we were fortunate to gain a new Chapter sponsor / donor, **Absolute Mobility Systems**. We are thankful for their generosity which helps our chapter program expenses. Another new fundraising event for the chapter this year was our participation in National PVA's Trapshooting circuit. Hosting our first event, we were quite pleased with the funds the chapter raised. These will continue to help with our outdoor sports programs. We look forward to our second Trapshooting event this coming August. President Zurfluh and Executive Director Butler continue to look for new avenues of fundraising. Look for our newest advertisement in the **2009 Washington Roll Call**.

Additionally, we would like to thank our friends at Kersey Mobility who continue to sponsor our monthly pizza party at the Puget Sound Healthcare System Hospital, SCI unit.

### Communication

Our Chapter Newsletter, the **Northwest Outpost** is published bimonthly and more than 600 copies are mailed out to members and other interested parties. The newsletter continues to grow as does our Chapter website, [www.nwpva.org](http://www.nwpva.org). We have begun to redesign our website to make the content more accessible and enjoyable. Another change in the site will be the ability to make a direct contribution to the chapter via **'Paypal'** We hope to unveil the new site by the end of the first quarter 09.

### Advocacy

Our advocacy program suffered the tragic loss of our Advocacy Director, Shirley Stinnett, less than half way through our fiscal year. Despite the loss to our program and Chapter, we did accomplish a few important projects. We were successful in helping to file a complaint against the Seattle Seahawks disabled ticket policy that violated the Americans with Disabilities Act through the Washington State Human Rights Commission. We were also successful in persuading the City of Bellevue to conform with state regulatory processes regarding disabled parking adjacent to the Meydenbauer Center.

Our most important advocacy achievement may be the creation of a Washington State Disability History Month (October) and the co-sponsorship of a statewide teaching website that will be used to introduce disability awareness to over 1 million Washingtonians in grades K-12.

### Membership

This year's membership roles decreased a small amount due to adjustments for relocation and deaths. Membership at the end of December stood at 455 members. The Chapter will continue to work diligently for all our members in the coming years with our volunteer programs and hospital liaison. We had several new members volunteer this past year for the VAVS programs.

### Liaison

We maintain an active relationship with the VA Puget Sound Health Care System's Seattle and American Lake campuses. Our program extends to direct donations to support activities from a clothing bank to providing emergency travel assistance to facilitate medical treatment. We also monitor the VA's health care delivery and have members visiting the hospitals regularly to check with patients and staff. We continue to support staff participation in continuing education and certification programs.

### Sports & Recreation

Sports and Recreation continue to be a very active program for the Northwest Chapter. In addition to the annual 'National Veteran Wheelchair Games' and Winter Sports Clinic, we continue to have a strong outdoor sports program thanks to associate member and Outdoor Sports Director Mike Davis. With Hunting, and Fishing opportunities and our sport shooting programs, most members can avail themselves to the great Northwest outdoors. Chapter members have also been active on the local biking scene handcycling in rides like the **MS 150** (raising monies in support of our members with MS) and other rides local to the NW. Finally the chapter is looking forward to hosting the 2009 National Veteran Wheelchair Games in the great Northwest city of Spokane. So join us this July in **'roll on the river'**.

### Service Office

Well we survived yet another year with even more changes than the previous year. Duane Hughes was hired on as a National Service Officer III in February 2008. With Duane coming aboard, it allowed us to provide coverage to the SCI Office four days a week and the other day at the Regional Office. Again, this would allow us to assist more veterans thus increasing the number of veterans we represent, file more claims and conduct more interviews.

We took 27 new power of attorneys (POA) increasing the number of veterans we represent before the VA. We filed almost three hundred issues/claims this last year resulting in just over \$2 million dollars being paid out in compensation or pension benefits to our clientele. We conducted over three thousand contacts either by phone or mail while doing over one hundred and thirty personal interviews.

We continue working with the ALS Association to identify veterans diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) in applying for compensation benefits based on a recent law changed establishing service connection for veterans who have served 90 days or more with honorable service in the military.

Hopefully, we can continue providing the kind of representation our clients deserve and expect of Paralyzed Veterans of America as we move forward into the New Year.

### Legislation

It was another active year for Veteran Legislation on both the State and Federal levels. On the Federal level the new G.I. Education Bill passed congress and our Advocacy / Legislation Team had a successful trip to Washington DC. State wide Chapter President Dave Zurfluh and Legislative Director Mike Partridge are both active in Olympia as members of the Veteran Legislative Coalition (VLC). And Past President Gary Pearson is our new member on the Governor's Veteran Advisory and Administrative Council (VAAC). This past year they helped to get the Veterans Property Relief Tax passed for 100% disabled Veterans (WSB 5256) along with a host of other outstanding Veteran Legislation.



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## Financial Statement

<u>Assets</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 21,500	\$ 230
Short-Term Investments: Bonds & Money Market	248,316	272,398
Other Receivables	-	2,240
Prepaid Expenses & Supplies Inventory	3,744	5,102
Funds Held in Trust	-	-
Property & Equipment-Net of Depreciation	<u>286,748</u>	<u>295,450</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 560,308</u>	<u>\$ 575,420</u>
 <u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>		
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Other Payables	-	-
Funds Held in Trust	15,710	15,710
Rent Deposits	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Total Liabilities	17,710	17,710
 <u>Net Assets</u>		
Unrestricted	<u>542,598</u>	<u>557,710</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>542,598</u>	<u>557,710</u>
 Total Liabilities and Net Assets	 <u>\$ 560,308</u>	 <u>\$ 575,420</u>
 <u>Unrestricted Net Assets</u>		
<u>Support</u>		
Contributions	\$ 216,203	\$ 75,433
Investment Income	10,910	11,983
PVA Grant	174,720	168,000
Lease Income	14,220	12,410
Fund Raising-Newsletter Advertising	2,750	3,495
Other	<u>600</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Unrestricted Support	419,403	271,321
 <u>Expenses</u>		
<u>Program Services</u>		
Membership and Benefits	126,451	44,482
Public Affairs	150,360	108,955
Geo. B. Turner Research & Education	<u>29,642</u>	<u>27,277</u>
Total Program Services	<u>306,453</u>	<u>180,714</u>
 <u>Support Services</u>		
General & Administrative	56,149	52,984
Fund Raising	<u>71,913</u>	<u>13,876</u>
Total Support Services	128,062	<u>66,860</u>
Total Expenses	<u>434,515</u>	<u>247,574</u>
 (Decrease) Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	 (15,112)	 23,747
Unrestricted Net Assets-Beginning	<u>557,710</u>	<u>533,963</u>
Unrestricted Net Assets-Ending	<u>\$ 542,598</u>	<u>\$ 557,710</u>



**National Service Officers**  
**Michael Killen**  
**Duane Hughes**

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 Room 1054  
 Seattle, WA 98174

206-220-6175  
 800-795-3576  
 206-768-5415 (VA Hospital)  
 206-220-6136 (Fax)

**NWPVA Officers**  
 President-David Zurfluh  
 Vice President-Brent King  
 Secretary-Terry Chenoweth  
 Treasurer-Aaron Hastings  
 Past President-Gary Pearson  
 National Director-Chuck Karczewski

**NWPVA  
 Board of Directors**  
 Duane Osborn Joe Sapienza  
 Tom Bungert Don Porter  
 Sean Halsted Patrick Farrell

**NWPVA Appointees**  
 Sports Director-Tom Knoppi  
 Shooting Sports Director-  
 Mike Davis  
 Fundraising Chairman-  
 Ernie Butler  
 Membership Director & Seattle  
 VAVS-Tom Bungert  
 Outpost Editor-Lisa Lawrence  
 Legislative Director-David Zurfluh  
 Seattle VA Hospital Liaison-  
 Gary Pearson

**Staff**  
 Executive Director-Ernie Butler  
 Government Relations Director-  
 Skip Dreps  
 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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