



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

2009 Annual Report



President's Message



2009 started of with a blizzard (no really a blizzard) giving us far more snow than we are use to. All this caused Christmas parties to be re-scheduled to late January, but we survived. Later in the spring, faced with a decrease in our Chapter Grant monies, again we survived and by the end of the year made our budget work (kudos to Executive Director, Ernie Butler and Chapter Treasurer, Aaron Hastings). Going into the New Year, we have leased all available office space and continue to develop new programs and ideas. We are truly blessed compared to others in this recession. In 2010 hopefully we will see the PSHCS Hospital remodel begin and we will continue to monitor the progress and keep our members informed. Finally remember I love to hear from you, our members. The ideas I got last year were not all used, but certainly all were heard so please keep them coming.

Closing on a good note, congratulations to Mike Killen on his being selected for the NSO of the Year award.

2009 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 five (5) Tenants, Empire Electronics, Disabled Americans have Rights Too (DAHRT), Tellit Communications, Grady Financial and The League of Women Voters of South King County. 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 is in good standing with our National office and participates fully in all National meetings.

Communication

Our Chapter Newsletter, the Northwest Outpost is published bimonthly and more than 600 copies are mailed out to members and other interested parties. Our website, www.nwpva.org is an additional source of chapter information for the public and members. The website has undergone substantial changes this past year thanks to the efforts of our newest Board member Patrick Carpenter. New additions to the website are a 'PayPal' button on every page to allow online donations quickly and easily, more pictures on each page, with new pictures and content added bi-monthly. We have also this past year added a new 40 inch flat screen TV with camera to allow Board members unable to attend a meeting in person to be able to join us on camera with interactive voice to join discussions, vote and offer their reports. In these three ways, newsletter, website and interactive TV, we are able to better communicate effectively with members. Finally, the chapter hosted our National Communications Director, Mark Daley to hold a "Message Box" training seminar for our new Board Members and staff.

Advocacy

Barrier-free design and access to public services and facilities continues to be the focus of our advocacy efforts. Working with National PVA we continue to follow the construction of the new Long-Term Care Facility at the American Lake location, which is slated to open during 2010. We also worked with other Disability Organizations in successfully lobbying the King County Council to form a Disability Board to help manage ADA related issues in King County. This new board will have disabled members and we see this as a step forward for King County and the city of Seattle. 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.

Membership

This year's membership roles decreased a small amount due to readjustments for relocation and deaths. Membership at the end of November stood at 197 service connected members and 251 non-service connected members for a total of 448 members. The Chapter will continue to work diligently for all our members in the coming years with our volunteer programs.

Liaison

We maintain an active relationship with the VA Puget Sound Health Care System's Seattle and American Lake campuses as well as the Spokane and Boise VA Medical Centers. 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.

Legislation

It was another active year for Veteran Legislation on both the State and Federal levels. Even though the State was facing an \$8 billion dollar budget deficit the Veterans Legislative Coalition helped to get 8 bills passed during 2009. Chapter President Dave Zurfluh and Legislative Director Mike Partridge are both active members on the Veterans Legislative Coalition (VLC). Even facing the huge budget deficit the VLC was still able to get the Legislature to fund the Veterans Innovative Program (VIP). The VIP program assists members of the National Guard transition back into civilian life after their deployment. On the Federal level our Advocacy/Legislation Team had another successful trip to DC. PVA's number one legislative priority was for congress to approve advance appropriation for the VA budget. In November, congress approved a bill that would allow for the advance appropriation. The issues that we will be monitoring this year are: insuring that the VA receive adequate funds for medical care; that progress is made to process disability claims, and; insuring that medical services to our members are maintained.

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. Our vehicle donation program remains our biggest fundraiser. The National Trapshoot has become a solid contributor in our fund raising efforts as well. 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 also now able to accept donations on our web site through Pay Pal.

Sports & Recreation

Sports and Recreation continue to be the hallmark program for the NW chapter. In 2009 our chapter hosted our third (3rd) National Veteran Wheelchair Games in Spokane, Washington. Our friends at the Spokane VA showed the warmth and hospitality Washington is known for. "**Rollin on the River**" was our slogan and many participants found Spokane's river walk a delightful place to stroll or roll in the evening. NWPVA's contingent to the games was again over 40 people with members, coaches and support personnel. For NWPVA, hosting our third games was a great experience.

The chapter also sent members to the National Winter Sports Clinic in Colorado, and supported our Chapter Trap Shooting Team, while holding our 3rd National PVA Trapshoot, a fun event that has also become a good fundraising opportunity for the chapter. Combining with the Oregon Chapter to our south we began a quarterly inter-chapter Trapshoot to help both chapters grow our shooting sports programs and improve the skills of our members in a friendly competitive format. Other sports and recreation events we supported this past year were our continued affiliation with "Camp ACCESS" a disabled children's summer camp, hand-cycling rides and partnering with the VA in hosting a disabled golf clinic with the "Solo Riders", a golf cart designed to make golfing available to paralyzed individuals.



Service Office

This year has been really productive for both offices, even with one of the National Services Officers being away on business travel for a large part of the year. We have interviewed more veterans who have been diagnosed with ALS and assisted in filing claims on their behalf. We have taken over 100 new power of attorneys allowing us to represent more veterans before the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), thus increasing the total numbers of claims filed by both offices to over 800 claims, while conducting over 420 client interviews. This has resulted in almost \$5 million dollars in benefits being paid to our clientele. We have been working closely with the ALS Association's Evergreen Chapter to reach out to veterans diagnosed with ALS or their survivors. We continue to work with the NW Chapter and have been touching bases with the Oregon Chapter to make sure our clients get the adequate care and benefits they are entitled to and so deserving of. We are continuing to reach out to the returning OEF/OIF veterans to offer our assistance in representing them with the VA. So as you can see this has been a very productive year for both offices and we look forward to continuing this level of success into this upcoming year.

Financial Statement

<u>Assets</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 37,063	\$ 21,500
Short-Term Investments: Bonds & Money Market	250,905	248,316
Other Receivables	-	-
Prepaid Expenses & Supplies Inventory	2,000	3,744
Property & Equipment-Net of Depreciation	<u>278,229</u>	<u>286,748</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 568,197</u>	<u>\$ 560,308</u>
<u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>		
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Accounts Payable	6,800	-
Funds Held in Trust	13,210	15,710
Payroll Tax Liabilities	3,335	-
Rent Deposits	<u>2,350</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Total Liabilities	25,695	17,710
<u>Net Assets</u>		
Unrestricted	<u>542,502</u>	<u>542,598</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>542,502</u>	<u>542,598</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 568,197</u>	<u>\$ 560,308</u>
<u>Unrestricted Net Assets</u>		
<u>Support</u>		
Contributions	\$ 157,371	\$ 216,203
Investment Income	2,599	10,910
PVA Grant	156,710	174,720
Lease Income	13,425	14,220
Fund Raising-Newsletter Advertising	2,200	2,750
Other	<u>200</u>	<u>600</u>
Total Unrestricted Support	332,505	419,403
<u>Expenses</u>		
<u>Program Services</u>		
Membership and Benefits	94,572	126,451
Public Affairs	122,208	150,360
Geo. B. Turner Research & Education	<u>27,342</u>	<u>29,642</u>
Total Program Services	<u>244,122</u>	<u>306,453</u>
<u>Support Services</u>		
General & Administrative	42,601	56,149
Fund Raising	<u>45,878</u>	<u>71,913</u>
Total Support Services	88,479	<u>128,062</u>
Total Expenses	<u>332,601</u>	<u>434,515</u>
(Decrease) Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	(96)	(15,112)
Unrestricted Net Assets-Beginning	<u>542,598</u>	<u>557,710</u>
Unrestricted Net Assets-Ending	<u>\$ 542,502</u>	<u>\$ 542,598</u>



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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

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
 VAWS-Tom Bungert
 Outpost Editor-Lisa Lawrence
 Legislative Director-
 Michael Partridge
 Seattle VA Hospital Liaison-
 Gary Pearson

Staff

Executive Director-Ernie Butler
 Office Manager-Lisa Lawrence

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