



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Northwest Chapter



Ernie Butler 1952-2018

2018 Annual Report

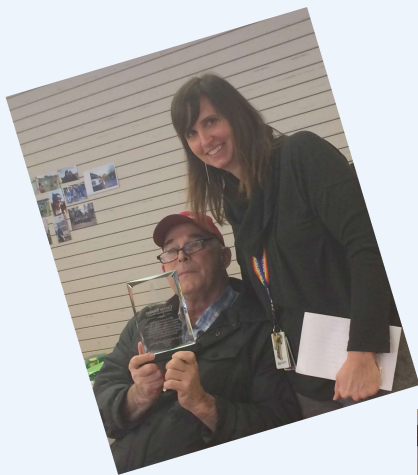
President's Message



members.

Our 39th year as a chartered Paralyzed Veterans of America chapter was outstanding. As you read our accomplishments for 2018 you will see that we are striving to accomplish our mission through our chapter programs to *provide, elevate, advocate, cooperate, and educate* to increase quality health care for our members, advance research and education addressing spinal cord injury and disease, champion benefits as a result of our military service, and strive toward the prize of equal civil rights and expanded opportunities to maximize the independence of our

This is what we do and we hope you enjoy reading what we have accomplished in 2018. From our first annual golf tournament fundraiser and funding medical scholarships to leading the effort to discouraging Washington State to implementing a sales and use tax on VA authorized automobile adaptive equipment provide by approved vendors we have worked hard to make our members' lives better. We expanded our number of Board of Directors at the end of the year to anticiate expanding our leadership to accomodate our growing to make 2019, our 40th anniversary, the very best we can be.



2018 Accomplishments

Fundraising

We are blessed with a robust fundraising program that includes a variety of activities. This year our First Annual Golf Tournament was successful and we look forward next year to the support of Friends of American Lake Golf Course and Starbucks Armed Forces Network.

We continue to enjoy the generosity of our donors like Costco and their employees, Ames Bros, Absolute Mobility and Kersey Mobility (who also alternate sponsoring our spinal cord injury unit pizza parties), Seattle Police Employees Charity Fund, OthersFirst, and scores of individuals who make small and large donations. One of those individuals, Norman Basketcase, has been an annual supporter that donates money, materials, and his time to help the Chapter's new computer and security systems.

Our partnership with PVA through the *G.I.V.E.* and *Wheels Helping Warriors* programs are fundraising all year long. Our success in fundraising reflects the positive difference we make in the lives of others that enable NWPVA to maintain an excellent reputation for being a good steward of donations to support our programs.

Liaison

The Chapter continues to enjoy an active partnership with VA Puget Sound Healthcare System (VAPSHCS) and the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA). Our liaisons work with our PVA Service Officers to improve spinal cord injury and disease care at VA Puget Sound Seattle and American Lake campuses. They have a scheduled monthly meeting with the Spinal Cord Injury Director to raise issues and concerns from our members.

We continue to support requests for funding for equipment and education as well as providing pizza parties following our Chapter meetings once a month. Our catered Holiday Party at the Spinal Cord Injury Unit is always a success and we continue to provide the source of inspiration that keeps the Spinal Cord Injury Unit motivated: coffee! We also purchased swimsuit dryers to make our pool therapy a better experience.

Our work paid off in a successful PVA Site Visit that yielded a blueprint for our future partnership with VAPSHCS to continue to improve our healthcare to provide a solid foundation to maximize our members' independence.

Our volunteer liaison program extends to WDVA's nursing homes where we have a liaison that is an active advocate for disabled recreation to include fly fishing. We even purchased a wheelchair accessible Port-A-Potty to be located at the river in Orting to increase wheelchair veteran participation.

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 after each printing. Our website, www.nwpva.org is another valued source of information for the public and members alike and is currently being updated. We utilize our newsletter, website and calendar to communicate what is happening with the NWPVA to our members. Finally the chapter has hosted board meetings monthly via an 800 call in line for Directors and Members hospitalized or ill who cannot attend the meeting.

Service Office

Claim work is so much different today than when I first started back in May of 1992 for another Veterans Service Organization. The VA has moved away from the paper claims folders or C-Files to being totally paperless using Veterans Benefits Management System or VBMS as the electronic record. Claims are now submitted through different portals like E-Benefits, Direct Upload, or Stakeholder Exchange Portal (SEP). Being managed and worked through the National Work Queue (NWQ), which distributes the workload to the different Regional Offices or Stations across the Country as the VA continues to strive at ways of improving the delivery of benefits in a timely manner to veterans and their dependents.

Appeals are not exempt from Modernization as the VA is transitioning from the traditional appeal to the Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAMP) in an attempt to resolve these disagreements with the decisions in a more timely manner than the traditional appeal, which could take years before the veteran receives a final decision. Appeals will continue to modernize and transition away from the traditional appeal toward the Appeals Modernization Act (AMA) which goes into effect on February 14, 2019.

Through all of this, the Seattle Service Office and the Seattle SCI Offices have had a pretty productive year as we continue to increase the number of new POAs we take and the number of claims filed compared to the previous year. We have taken 107 new POAs, with 95 of them being target POAs increasing the total number of clients we represent to 1,061 clients. This has resulted in almost 915 issues/claims being filed on behalf of our clients resulting in 10.87 million dollars in benefits being awarded to our clientele by the VA. This is a rather significant increase of 3.9 million dollars compared to the previous year of 6.9 million dollars. We conducted over 5100 contacts through phone or mail correspondence including over 600 personal interviews at bedside or in the office. We continue to attend the ALS Clinics at the American Lake and the Seattle campuses, while looking at increasing our presence at the MS Clinics and other ways to increase our outreach efforts and opportunities in the upcoming year.

As you can see, this has been a very productive year for both offices and we look forward to being even more productive in 2019 as the offices continue to work together supporting each other to provide the best representation to our clients, the Chapter and the National Organization. We look forward to 2019 and the challenges that come with it.

Sports & Recreation

This year we salute one of our greatest athletes: Sean Halsted. Sean participated in his 4th Winter Olympics representing the US this past year in Korea. We watched cheering Sean in several events where US veterans won Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals. Sean was a pioneer in Winter Olympic disabled sports and excelled in the Biathlon.

PVA participated in their first Seattle-to-Portland (STP) 200+ mile bicycle event for the first time and our Chapter Executive Director, Brent King, finished the event.

VAPSHCS' Director participated in one of our Chapter/SCI Curling events and demonstrated the institution's commitment to our sports and recreation program.

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We also sponsor fly fishing at one of our State Veterans Homes and hunting trips in Eastern Washington. But our most notable accomplishments this year was our First Annual Golf Tournament at American Lake VA. It turned out to be a good fundraiser as well as an opportunity to bring the community together to support the event. Starbucks' Armed Forces Network participated as well as the Wounded Warrior Battalion from Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

We were proud again this year to send novice and experienced members to the Winter Sports Clinic, Summer Games, and National Veterans Wheelchair Games. We plan next year to be *UnstopABLE* in supporting our sports and recreation program and look forward to supporting our community wheelchair basketball teams.

Membership

Membership continues to be stable. We have 166 service connected members and 209 non -service connected members. The Chapter is working on an Associate Membership application to be approved in 2019. We will continue to increase our membership through our outreach through our service programs.

We remember the passing of one of NWPVA's distinguished members, Ernie Butler. Ernie was our Advocacy Director and Executive Director before becoming PVA Sports Director. We will miss him as we will remember all of our members who are no longer with us.

Advocacy/Legislation

This year we participated in PVA's Advocacy/Legislation Seminar in Washington, Dc with a full *Team of Advocates* that enabled us to visit almost all of our congressional representatives to include Alaska and Montana. At the same time our *State Legislative Team* lead the Veterans Legislative Coalition in advocating successfully for another moratorium on imposing a sales tax on VA authorized automobile adaptive equipment.

Next year's goal is to extend the moratorium for an additional 10 years.

Our advocacy program was successful in extending better accessible access to the VAPSHCS's parking garage to commercial shooting sports clubs. We advocated recall of disabled hunting licenses for review and next year will also advocate the recall and reissue of disabled parking permits to curtail abuse.

Our community focus next year will be to continue to monitor and review changes to our regional transportation system as SeaTac and Paine Field airports that will be undergoing substantial changes to access to the skies.

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 chapter and Disabled Americans Have Rights Too (DAHRT). 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.

This year we added 3 new board member positions and are amending our Chapter By-Laws to reflect a change in monthly Board of Directors and General Membership meetings to 9 a year and not meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 12:00 in July, August, and December.

This year we also updated our computer capacity and started plans to renovate our restroom facilities to make it more accessible and look forward to its remodeling next year. Our goal next year is to restore our website to enable our increasing volume of information to provide our members in a timely manner.

Our Administrative staff operates our medical equipment donation service to the community. Every year we donate wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, and other durable medical equipment to the community that are donated to us. This year we receive dozens of electric scooters and wheelchairs from cruise operators who port in Seattle as they recycle their adaptive equipment following their last yearly voyage of the season.

We also sponsor a downtown Burien merchant's Halloween *Trick or Treat (Boo In Burien!)* event that brings hundreds of children and their families to the Chapter Office to celebrate community.



Financial Statement

<u>Assets</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 38,079	\$ 32,006
Short-Term Investments: Bonds & Money Market	324,875	322,861
Supplies Inventory	1,590	1,590
Property & Equipment-Net of Depreciation	<u>249,909</u>	<u>257,686</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 614,453</u>	<u>\$ 614,143</u>
<u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>		
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Accounts Payable	-	-
Funds Held in Trust	10,710	10,710
Payroll Tax Liabilities	154	154
Rent Deposits	<u>1,650</u>	<u>1,650</u>
Total Liabilities	12,514	12,514
<u>Net Assets</u>		
Unrestricted	<u>601,939</u>	<u>601,629</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>601,939</u>	<u>601,629</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 614,453</u>	<u>\$ 614,143</u>
<u>Unrestricted Net Assets</u>		
<u>Support</u>		
Contributions	\$ 66,660	\$ 41,916
Investment Income	2,019	1,192
PVA Grant	158,100	158,100
Lease Income	15,180	13,430
Fund Raising-Newsletter Advertising	200	700
Sports Shooting Entry Fees	-	<u>24,586</u>
Total Unrestricted Support	242,159	239,924
<u>Expenses</u>		
<u>Program Services</u>		
Membership and Benefits	34,165	37,733
Public Affairs	80,913	98,261
Geo. B. Turner Research & Education	<u>21,621</u>	<u>25,264</u>
Total Program Services	<u>136,699</u>	<u>161,258</u>
<u>Support Services</u>		
General & Administrative	48,228	45,791
Fund Raising	<u>56,922</u>	<u>33,743</u>
Total Support Services	<u>105,150</u>	<u>79,534</u>
Total Expenses	<u>241,849</u>	<u>240,792</u>
(Decrease) Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	310	(868)
Unrestricted Net Assets-Beginning	<u>601,629</u>	<u>602,497</u>
Unrestricted Net Assets-Ending	<u>\$ 601,939</u>	<u>\$ 601,629</u>



**Senior National Service
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206-220-6136 (Fax)

NWPVA Officers FY 2017

President-Thomas Bungert

Vice President-Robert Brush

Secretary-Gary Lieberg

Treasurer-Aaron Hastings

Past President &

National Director-Michael Partridge

NWPVA

Board of Directors

Mike Partridge 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-

Robert Brush

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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