



Northwest Chapter



2021 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, 2020 and ending September 30, 2021. As in past years, this year's budget, annual report, and supporting documentation was produced by your NWPVA Officers & Board of Directors, an independent CPA, our NWPVA Executive Director, and your NWPVA Office Manager. We have only experienced a minor shift with organizational & promotional events since the COVID-19 Pandemic. The chapter continues to keep exploring new Partnerships and Sponsorships through grants and donations with different business and opportunities. By moving forward, we continue to strive toward the mission of advocating for our members' healthcare, benefits, research & education, programs, and civil rights & opportunities. We also continue 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) System of Care.

Now in my third year, it has been a pleasure leading the Northwest Chapter as your President and I look forward to continuing leading you in the years to come. To better enhance the chapter's direction and ensure accountability with impartiality, your NWPVA Board of Directors has elected and confirmed me as your Northwest National Director, this allows for a continuation of leadership being now on PVA's National Board of Directors. I continue following PVA's mission by strengthening our robust chapter programs, supporting research & education that addresses SCI/D, and use our local Veteran outreach organizations to advocate for PVA to be successful for all our members. We must understand that our chapter's immediate advocacy with community involvement, enhances our mission and I would love to continue this relationship with our community retailers & outreach centers to help advocate for our members. NWPVA continues sponsoring Burien's "Transform Burien Center", a Veteran and Community Outreach Center, and the "Rolling Rainiers", a Veteran and Community Adaptive Wheelchair Basketball Team. We hope to continue advocating PVA's mission proudly through these and other organizations.

During this later pandemic time of Covid-19, your NWPVA Chapter remained steadfast in advocating for reasons that are truly noteworthy. NWPVA stood in remembrance at, delivered and placed a wreath on each of the military memorials on the Washington State Capital grounds on Memorial Day. The chapter also took part in the Auburn Veterans Day Parade, using the chapters parade car and helping to advocate for PVA. The inpatients in the SCI Unit at Seattle VA were treated with a delivery of several slices of gourmet pizza once a month, just to let them know NWPVA is there for them, "always". The pizza is said to arrive piping hot and is really good!

There are so many individuals who are involved to make our chapter strive; I would like to thank the past and current Northwest PVA Officers & Board of Directors, General Members & their families, and our Partners & Sponsors for all you have done over these past years and the years to come. With all we do by continuing to support the mission and in advocating, I believe our Annual Report reflects our due diligence in achieving these goals.



2021 Accomplishments

Fundraising

We continue to enjoy the generosity of our donors like Costco and their employees, Seattle Foundation, Absolute Mobility, Ability Center, OthersFirst, our new partner, Mobility Roadside Assistance, and scores of individuals who make small and large donations.

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.

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 have completed building 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 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.



Communication

Our Chapter Newsletter, the *Northwest Outpost* is published bimonthly and printed in-house. 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 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

Here we are coming up on the third year operating during a pandemic. No one would expect this pandemic would change our lives so drastically. We are still encountering many new challenges of working remotely while transitioning to working back in the offices. We have to learn how to conduct outpatient visits utilizing the VA Video Connect (VVC) for telehealth appointments in the different clinics. Or doing personal hearing remotely where no one is in the same room physically. We learned to rely on texting and emails or other platforms like Microsoft Teams or Zoom to communicate with each other let alone our clients or VA staff. One thing is definite and that we had to learn to be flexible with all the changes from day to day.

It seems like for the last three years, I had mention someone leaving and someone coming. Well this year is no exception. Jerrell Briscoe resigned his position in March 2021. While we were down a service officer, Renee and myself tried our best to cover the two offices. In April 2021, I was transferred back to the Service Office on the Spinal Cord Injury Unit at the Seattle campus. I have been working more over at the SCI Office and Renee has been covering the office in the Federal Building. Well I am happy to report we filled the vacant position. Daniel Stewart is the new National Service Officer Candidate in the Seattle Service Office effective August 16, 2021.

You would expect our productivity to continue to decline and they did in some areas while we starting to see an increase in other ways. We were not able to increase the number of clients that we represent as we were only able to get 31 new power of attorneys (POA). We did have a decrease in the total number of clients we represent from 1035 in 2020 to 1014 in 2021. We conducted 129 outpatient visits using VVC while conducting 5 inpatient interviews, where the inpatients came to our office. We are still not allowed to see them at bedside or in the Therapy gym or Day Room like we used to do to the COVID restrictions in place. We were able to contact 395 clients during the last year. This was done with the help of other offices providing our offices with coverage at different times during the year. We were able to file over 580 claims/issues resulting in over \$7.9 million in benefits being awarded by the VA. This is an increase in over \$2.7 million more than in 2020. This is a significant amount considering we have vacancies in two offices for a majority of the year. With Dan coming aboard and completing his training in 2022, we should expect these numbers to increase as Dan becomes more involved in the operations of the office.

As always, we are looking forward to the challenges the new year will bring.

Outreach

The Chapter continues to enjoy an active partnership with VA Puget Sound Healthcare System (VAPSHCS) and the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA). We 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 once a month to the SCI unit. Our catered Holiday Party at the Spinal Cord Injury Unit and Annual Picnic resumed in 2021. These activities are always a success and we hope to continue them in 2022. We also provide the source of inspiration that keeps the Spinal Cord Injury Unit motivated: Coffee!

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.





Sports & Recreation

Our membership continues to be involved in many sports and recreation opportunities throughout the Northwest. We are involved in adaptive golf, curling, hunting, fishing, hand cycling, sled hockey, kayaking, weight lifting, scuba, indoor adaptive climbing and wheelchair basketball.

We had a few members that were able to travel to New York for an abbreviated National Veterans Wheelchair Games this year. At this moment in time, the National Veterans Winter Sports Clinic is still on the calendar. We are hoping that Covid numbers will stabilize and we can get back to some type of normalcy in the near future. Please keep as active as possible and we will keep you posted on any events coming up that may be of interest to you.

Membership

Membership continues to be stable. We have 180 service connected members and 197 non-service connected members, for a total of 377 members. We will continue to increase our membership through our outreach and service programs.

We remember the passing of one of NWPVA's distinguished members. Joe Sapienza, a founding father of NWPVA and long time Board of Director Member. We will miss him as we will remember all of our members who are no longer with us.



Joe Sapienza 2/23/41-12/13/21

Advocacy / Legislation

We again compiled a fine delegation team of Chapter Members with PVA's Advocacy/Legislation Seminar using virtual technology and spent a week fine tuning their presentations to our Congressional delegations. Our delegation, together with PVA and all the other chapters and veterans service organizations contribute to the Independent Budget (IB), the goal is to have enough funds each year to keep the VA functioning well to care for 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 was welcomed virtually by everyone they met with and generally gratified by the level of understanding and support during their meetings.





Financial Statement

<u>Assets</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 77,050	\$ 76,561
Short-Term Investments: Bonds & Money Market	404,720	402,849
Supplies Inventory	1,537	1,537
Property & Equipment-Net of Depreciation	<u>218,801</u>	<u>226,578</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 702,108</u>	<u>\$ 707,525</u>
<u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>		
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Accounts Payable	-	-
Funds Held in Trust	-	1,165
Payroll Tax Liabilities	-	(434)
Rent Deposits	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,650</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>1,000</u>	<u>2,381</u>
<u>Net Assets</u>		
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	<u>701,108</u>	<u>705,144</u>
Total Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	<u>701,108</u>	<u>705,144</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 702,108</u>	<u>\$ 707,525</u>
<u>Unrestricted Net Assets</u>		
<u>Support</u>		
Contributions	\$ 125,505	\$ 202,293
Investment Income	1,882	6,308
PVA Grant	147,114	144,551
Lease Income	12,500	10,980
Fund Raising-Newsletter Advertising	<u>2,400</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Unrestricted Support	289,401	364,132
<u>Expenses</u>		
<u>Program Services</u>		
Membership and Benefits	99,688	97,808
Public Affairs	83,224	90,941
Geo. B. Turner Research & Education	<u>53,749</u>	<u>53,363</u>
Total Program Services	<u>236,661</u>	<u>242,112</u>
<u>Support Services</u>		
General & Administrative	33,016	37,804
Fund Raising	<u>23,760</u>	<u>26,896</u>
Total Support Services	<u>56,776</u>	<u>64,736</u>
Total Expenses	<u>293,437</u>	<u>306,848</u>
(Decrease) Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets Without Donor Restriction	(4,036)	57,284
Net Assets Without Donor Restriction-Beginning	<u>705,144</u>	<u>647,860</u>
Net Assets Without Donor Restriction-Ending	<u>\$ 701,108</u>	<u>\$ 705,144</u>



PVA National Service Officers

Michael Killen

Henry M. Jackson Federal Bldg.
915 Second Avenue
Room 1054
Seattle, WA 98174
206-341-8210
800-795-3576

Veterans' Health & Benefits Specialist

Jerrell Briscoe

206-768-5415 (VA Hospital)
206-220-6136 (Fax)

Northwest PVA Leadership

Matthew Mickunas-President
Robert Clinton-Vice President
Weldon Lee-Secretary
Aaron Hastings-Treasurer
Robert Brush-Past President
Michael Partridge-National Director
David "Russ" Norris-BOD
Andrew Bechtle-BOD
Terry Chenoweth-BOD
Thomas Bungert-BOD
Joe Sapienza-BOD
Fred Margiotta-BOD
George Vernef-BOD

Northwest PVA Appointees

Sports Director-Russ Norris
Fundraising Chairman-
Brent King
Membership Officer & Advocacy
Director -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.*

Northwest Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America

616 SW 152nd Street, Suite B
Burien, WA 98166
206-241-1843
1-800-336-9782
Fax: 206-433-0749

E-mail: pvachnw@mindspring.com
Web site: www.nwpva.org