



Paralyzed Veterans of America Minnesota Chapter

Annual Report
2022

Mission Statement

Minnesota Paralyzed Veterans of America (MNPVA), a Minnesota nonprofit organization, is an officially recognized Paralyzed Veterans of America chapter. MNPVA assists veterans with spinal cord injury or spinal cord diseases by staying active with legislative and advocacy programs which promote barrier-free design, supporting medical research, providing sports and recreation opportunities, and peer mentoring. MNPVA receives support from the National Organization, grants, donor contributions, and fundraising.

The organization's major programs include

- Advocacy and Legislative – advocating for member's civil rights by staying engaged with national and statewide legislation.
- Sports and Recreation – providing opportunities for members to participate and attend sports and recreation programs to enhance and enrich their lives.
- Communication, mentoring, and assistance – reporting activities and news to members, serving as a resource for information and assistance.

Changing lives, Building Futures

FY21-22 Board of Directors

Executive Officers

President: Vicky Garrison
Vice President: Tim Valentin
Secretary: Scott Little
Treasurer: Doug Eckhoff
National Director: Todd Kemery

Board of Directors

Karl Olson
Eric "Scotty" Poehler, Sr.
John Novicki
Ron James
Seth Thomas

Message from the President

By Vicky Garrison

It is an honor to report on our continued operations from October 2021 through September 2022 (FY22). Despite the continuing issues related to the ongoing COVID situation, Minnesota Paralyzed Veterans of America (MNPVA) persisted with many in-person and virtual activities. The chapter sponsored in-person trap shooting and multiple-location bowling leagues and facilitated sessions for our members to engage in archery and air gun practice. A team of twelve athletes from our Minnesota chapter participated in the annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Tempe, Arizona. Our annual Midwest Fishing event, a joint venture with the Iowa PVA chapter, boasted a fantastic attendance, providing a week-long period of relaxation, rest, and respite for our members and their caregivers. We also supported multiple members in various competitions and sports clinics throughout the year.

MNPVA persisted diligently in advocating for our veterans. From working with local hotels and venues to improve accessibility to serving on multiple councils and committees, our organization remains a resource for many needing information on wheelchair accessibility and accommodation. Our legislative team met with numerous state and national legislators, promoting policies to ensure the well-being and available opportunities for the disabled veteran community.

Additionally, 2022 marked the beginning of our return to in-person meetings for board members. Our chapter remains financially stable even while expanding our financial support for members to attend various sports and recreation activities and continued support for our members in obtaining prosthetic and adaptive equipment. Through the teamwork of leadership and the generosity of many donors, MNPVA continues to serve our members compassionately and effectively.

Advocacy/Legislative

MNPVA regularly serves on multiple planning boards as an ADA expert in the community, including parks, recreation, and building projects. These connections allow us to advocate for accessibility and adaptive equipment inclusion criteria during planning phases. Some boards and task forces MNPVA serves include Minnesota State Council on Disability (MSCOD), Metropolitan Parks and Open Spaces Commission, and the Metropolitan Center for Independent Living (MCIL). Additionally, MNPVA serves as a resource to individuals and businesses requesting ADA and accessibility information. Legislatively, we participated in US and State meetings with legislators to discuss policies related to our mission. MNPVA continues to serve on the Minnesota Commander's Task Force, a group of congressionally chartered veterans service organizations joining together to advocate and advance legislation to support our dedicated veterans. Additionally, we maintain working relationships with many other Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) and participate in groups such as the Military Action Group (MAG), United Veterans Legislative Council (UVLC), and Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA). We join others to learn, collaborate, and advocate for many issues affecting veterans and their families.

Peer Mentoring

Our chapter continues to serve veterans with spinal cord injuries and diseases through our Peer Mentoring Program. We assist veterans through the complex challenges confronting those facing a new disability or with ongoing complications and needs. We believe that reaching those newly injured and diagnosed offers opportunities for shaping attitudes and goals for many as they face devastating life changes.

Membership

MNPVA serves veterans who have a spinal cord injury or disease and were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions. We welcome new members meeting those qualifications. For others, we continually seek volunteers and associate members for those who have a heart for our mission. A recent change in membership rules, now allow veterans with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) to join our organization upon diagnosis of MS, further assisting our desire to assist and support through all stages of the disease. At the end of FY21-22, the MNPVA membership number roster contained 331 members.

Sports & Recreation

Another primary mission for MNPVA is to encourage and assist members in being as active as possible, including participation in sports, events, and outings. Despite the COVID situation persisting, MNPVA still offered many opportunities to our veterans through virtual and in-person events while following safety protocols. We assisted over a dozen athletes to compete in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games and supported those who participated virtually from home. MNPVA successfully and safely held the two Trap Fun Shoots. Throughout the year, the chapter continued hosting regular bowling groups and a successful bowling event, the “Wheelchair Bowling Challenge.” The Minnesota chapter again joined with the Iowa chapter, co-sponsoring the annual ELY Fishing event, giving members and their caregivers an opportunity for rest and respite. MNPVA remained a sponsor of the Disabled Veteran events held by Minnesota Veterans Outdoor, which focuses on opportunities for disabled veterans, including turkey hunting, deer hunting, and fishing events. Additionally, in a long-standing tradition, our chapter provided opportunities for our members to attend professional sporting events such as baseball, football, and hockey through our annual season ticket program. MNPVA participated in multiple “drive-by” parades to honor veterans and patients/residents at the Minneapolis VA and Minneapolis VA Home.

Communication and Assistance

A vital service performed by MNPVA includes keeping our members informed of new opportunities, legislative and policy changes, and information relating to research. In the fiscal year 2022, the chapter sent out eight newsletters and additional mailings as needed. Our office, conveniently located in the Minneapolis VA Medical Center SCI/d area, reopened to regular hours in August. MNPVA regularly receives calls requesting information or assistance. Our chapter continues serving members by pursuing resources, sharing knowledge, and assisting with adaptive equipment and emergency help when alternative funding is unavailable.

Fundraising

Despite the ongoing challenges of the times, our chapter maintained an effective fundraising program, including virtual methods and in-person events. We successfully and safely held the two area Fun Shoots and the Wheelchair Bowling Challenge. MNPVA does not use telemarketing but instead chooses to reach people via giving networks such as AmazonSmile and GiveMN, social media, in-person, and events. We continue to think out of the box to reach those interested in helping our cause. Our chapter appreciates every donation and uses transparent finance and policy practices to ensure that we continue to maintain the trust of our donors and benefactors.

Financials – Statement of Financial Position

MINNESOTA PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
SEPTEMBER 30, 2022 AND 2021

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| <u>Assets</u> | | |
| Current assets | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 294,971 | \$ 249,538 |
| Accounts receivable | 276 | - |
| Grants receivable, net | - | 23,814 |
| Inventories | 12,586 | 10,227 |
| Marketable securities | 477,112 | 569,154 |
| Total current assets | 784,945 | 852,733 |
| Property and equipment | 99,580 | 99,580 |
| Less: accumulated depreciation | (99,580) | (97,409) |
| Net property and equipment | - | 2,171 |
| Total assets | 784,945 | 854,904 |
| <u>Liabilities and net assets</u> | | |
| Liabilities | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | 19,769 | 8,178 |
| Total current liabilities | 19,769 | 8,178 |
| Total liabilities | 19,769 | 8,178 |
| Net assets | | |
| Net assets without donor restrictions | 765,176 | 720,441 |
| Net assets with donor restrictions | - | - |
| Total net assets | 765,176 | 720,441 |
| Total liabilities and net assets | \$ 784,945 | \$ 728,619 |

Financials – Statement of Activities

MINNESOTA PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022 AND 2021

| | 2022 | | | 2021 |
|--|---|--|------------|------------|
| | Net assets without donor restrictions | Net assets with donor restrictions | Total | Total |
| <u>Support and revenue</u> | | | | |
| Contributions | \$ 62,506 | \$ - | \$ 62,506 | \$ 40,374 |
| Investment income | (91,675) | - | (91,675) | 81,611 |
| In-kind donations | 41,800 | - | 41,800 | 41,800 |
| State grants | 45,670 | - | 45,670 | 35,712 |
| PVA grants | 159,623 | - | 159,623 | 148,356 |
| Merchandise sales | 9,763 | - | 9,763 | 3,846 |
| Cost of sales | (3,211) | - | (3,211) | (6,017) |
| Other | 9,748 | - | 9,748 | 9,886 |
| Net assets released from restrictions | - | - | - | - |
| Total support and revenue | 234,224 | - | 234,224 | 355,568 |
| <u>Expense</u> | | | | |
| <u>Program services</u> | | | | |
| Advocacy, liaison, and service | 79,402 | - | 79,402 | 70,962 |
| Sports and recreation | 110,578 | - | 110,578 | 74,300 |
| Communication | 26,363 | - | 26,363 | 25,271 |
| Membership | 28,282 | - | 28,282 | 22,600 |
| Total program services | 244,625 | - | 244,625 | 193,133 |
| <u>Supporting services</u> | | | | |
| Management and general | 56,219 | - | 56,219 | 25,883 |
| Fundraising | 14,930 | - | 14,930 | 10,267 |
| Total expense | 315,774 | - | 315,774 | 229,283 |
| Change in net assets | (81,550) | - | (81,550) | 126,285 |
| Net assets, beginning of period | 846,726 | - | 846,726 | 720,441 |
| Net assets, end of period | \$ 765,176 | \$ - | \$ 765,176 | \$ 846,726 |

Financials – Statement of Cash Flows

MINNESOTA PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022 AND 2021

| | <u>2022</u> | <u>2021</u> |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| <u>Cash flows from operating activities</u> | | |
| Change in net assets | \$ (81,550) | \$ 126,285 |
| Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities | | |
| Depreciation | 2,171 | 2,384 |
| Net investment income | 91,675 | (81,611) |
| <u>Changes in operating assets and liabilities</u> | | |
| (Increase) in accounts receivable | (276) | - |
| (Increase) decrease in grant receivable | 23,814 | (13,843) |
| Decrease in prepaid expenses | - | 12,051 |
| (Increase) decrease in inventory | (2,359) | 5,972 |
| Increase in accounts payable | 11,591 | 6,609 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | <u>45,066</u> | <u>57,847</u> |
| <u>Cash flows from investing activities</u> | | |
| Net cash received from sale of investments | <u>367</u> | <u>268</u> |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents | <u>45,433</u> | <u>58,115</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period | <u>249,538</u> | <u>191,423</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalents, end of period | <u>\$ 294,971</u> | <u>\$ 249,538</u> |

The Chapter paid \$0 for interest for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2022 and 2021.

Minnesota Paralyzed Veterans of America
1 Veterans Drive – SCI 238
Minneapolis, MN 55417

Phone: 612-467-2263 Fax: 612-726-9472

Email: office@mnpva.org

Website: <https://mnpva.org>

Facebook: @MinnesotaPVA

Instagram: pva.mn

Articles of Incorporation

The Minnesota chapter of PVA continues to follow our core purpose and mandates as outlined in our Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws. A copy of these documents can be obtained by contacting our office.

"Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer."

-unknown author