



Paralyzed Veterans of America Minnesota Chapter

Annual Report 2021

Changing lives, Building Futures

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.

Fiscal Year 20-21 Board of Directors

Executive Officers

President: Todd Kemery
Vice President: Seth Thomas
Secretary: Vicky Garrison
Treasurer: Doug Eckhoff

National Director

Todd Kemery

Board of Directors

Eric “Scotty” Poehler, Sr.
 Karl Olson
 John Novicki
 Troy Houde

Message from the President, Vicky Garrison

As the current Minnesota Paralyzed Veterans of America president, it is an honor to report on our continued operations from September 2020 through September 2021 (FY21). During FY21, I served as the Chapter Secretary. The year began with a considerable period of sadness as we mourned the sudden death of our long-time friend and president, Ken Klein. His service and contribution to our chapter remain forever in our hearts. Todd Kemery, the vice-president-elect, stepped into the position with determination and experience. In conjunction with the board of directors, his leadership allowed us to continue the mission of MNPVA. Our chapter remains financially stable, despite the challenges and ramifications of COVID. Through teamwork and creatively working in a virtual setting, MNPVA continued serving our members very effectively. Thank you for your past and future support in serving this special population of veterans who served and gave so selflessly.

Advocacy/Legislative

MNPVA regularly serves on multiple planning boards as an ADA expert in the community, including parks, recreation, and building projects. This link allows us to advocate for accessibility and adaptive equipment inclusion criteria during planning phases. Some boards and task forces MNPVA serves with include Minnesota State Council on Disability (MSCOD), Metropolitan Parks and Open Spaces Commission, Big Island Restoration, and the Veterans Memorial Greenway project. Additionally, MNPVA serves regularly as a resource to individuals and businesses who request ADA and accessibility information. Legislatively, we participated in US and State meetings with legislators to discuss policy related to our mission. COVID restrictions forced us to adapt, holding many of these meetings virtually. A significant task force MNPVA continues to serve on is our state, "Commander's Task Force," a group of congressionally chartered veterans service organizations. The president for MNPVA served as Chairman for this task force, and the legislative and advocacy team belonged as members. Additionally, MNPVA maintains working relationships with many other Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) and participates in groups such as 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 through this connection.

Peer Mentoring

During the transition into the new PVA Peer Mentoring Program, our chapter continued to serve our members through the complex challenges confronting those with spinal cord injuries or disease. The new program will match veterans with recent injuries or diagnoses with trained peer mentors. We are excited to implement this comprehensively.

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. At the end of FY20-21, the MNPVA membership number roster contained 338 members.

Sports and 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. Even amidst COVID restrictions, MNPVA still afforded many opportunities to our veterans through virtual and in-person events, when safety allowed. We assisted several athletes to compete in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games and supported those who participated virtually from home. MNPVA successfully and safely held the annual MNPVA Brainerd Area Fun Shoot. Throughout the year, the chapter hosted regular bowling groups. MNPVA co-sponsored, with the Iowa chapter, and participated in the yearly ELY Fishing event. MNPVA sent several people to take part in an annual deer hunting event in northern Minnesota in the fall. In addition, our chapter provides opportunities for our members to attend professional sporting events such as baseball, football, and hockey through our annual season ticket program. MNPVA also played a role 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 items like new opportunities, legislative and policy changes, and information relating to research. The chapter sent out at least six newsletters and additional mailings as needed. COVID restrictions required that office hours be reduced; however, the chapter continually connected with our members by working remotely. MNPVA regularly receives calls requesting information or assistance. Despite the challenging work situation, MNPVA continued serving members by pursuing resources, sharing knowledge, and assisting with adaptive equipment and emergency help when alternative funding was unavailable.

Fundraising

Despite the challenges of COVID, our chapter maintained an effective fundraising program, including virtual methods and in-person events. We successfully and safely held the annual MNPVA Brainerd Area Fun Shoot, drawing a large crowd to the event. 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.

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.

Finances

MINNESOTA PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 AND 2020

	2021	2020
<u>Assets</u>		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 249,538	\$ 191,423
Grants receivable, net	23,814	9,971
Prepaid expenses	-	12,051
Inventories	10,227	16,199
Marketable securities	569,154	487,811
Total current assets	852,733	717,455
Property and equipment	99,580	99,580
Less: accumulated depreciation	(97,409)	(95,025)
Net property and equipment	2,171	4,555
Total assets	854,904	722,010
<u>Liabilities and net assets</u>		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	8,178	1,569
Total current liabilities	8,178	1,569
Total liabilities	8,178	1,569
Net assets		
Net assets without donor restrictions	846,726	720,441
Net assets with donor restrictions	-	-
Total net assets	846,726	720,441
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 854,904	\$ 722,010

MINNESOTA PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 AND 2020

	2021			2020
	Net assets without donor restrictions	Net assets with donor restrictions	Total	Total
<u>Support and revenue</u>				
Contributions	\$ 40,374	\$ -	\$ 40,374	\$ 38,816
Investment income	81,611	-	81,611	19,314
In-kind donations	41,800	-	41,800	43,845
State grants	35,712	-	35,712	75,349
PVA grants	148,356	-	148,356	142,845
Merchandise sales	3,846	-	3,846	7,254
Cost of sales	(6,017)	-	(6,017)	(5,653)
Other	9,886	-	9,886	6,664
Net assets released from restrictions	-	-	-	-
Total support and revenue	355,568	-	355,568	328,434
<u>Expense</u>				
<u>Program services</u>				
Advocacy, liaison, and service	70,962	-	70,962	90,148
Sports and recreation	74,300	-	74,300	57,156
Communication	25,271	-	25,271	25,296
Membership	22,600	-	22,600	28,503
Total program services	193,133	-	193,133	201,103
<u>Supporting services</u>				
Management and general	25,883	-	25,883	24,487
Fundraising	10,267	-	10,267	11,338
Total expense	229,283	-	229,283	236,928
Change in net assets	126,285	-	126,285	91,506
Net assets, beginning of period	720,441	-	720,441	628,935
Net assets, end of period	\$ 846,726	\$ -	\$ 846,726	\$ 720,441

MINNESOTA PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 AND 2020

	2021	2020
<u>Cash flows from operating activities</u>		
Change in net assets	\$ 126,285	\$ 91,506
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities		
Depreciation	2,384	1,651
Net investment income	(81,611)	(19,314)
<u>Changes in operating assets and liabilities</u>		
(Increase) decrease in grant receivable	(13,843)	5,307
(Increase) decrease in prepaid expenses	12,051	(3,021)
Decrease in inventory	5,972	584
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	6,609	(11,244)
Net cash provided by operating activities	57,847	65,469
<u>Cash flows from investing activities</u>		
Net cash received from sale of investments	268	1,359
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	58,115	66,828
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	191,423	124,595
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ 249,538	\$ 191,423

The Chapter paid \$0 for interest for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2021 and 2020.

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Instagram: pva.mn

Those who can, do.
Those who can do more, volunteer.
-author unknown

MNPVA Current Board of Directors

Executive Officers

President: Vicky Garrison
Vice President: Tim Valentin
Secretary: Scott Little
Treasurer: Doug Eckhoff

Immediate Past President: Todd Kemery

Directors

Karl Olson
Eric “Scotty” Poehler
John Novicki
Ron James
Troy Houde