



# **Paralyzed Veterans of America**

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**Central Florida Chapter**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2015/2016**

# Officers and Directors

## President

Steve Kirk

## Vice President

Sean Gibbs

## Secretary

Sharona Young

## Treasurer

Charlie Merritt

## Directors

Ken Weas

Brian Terwilliger

Jim Trago

Bill Hannigan

Ken Carter

Craig Enenbach

## Executive Director

John DeMauro

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Paralyzed Veterans of America Central Florida, a congressionally chartered veteran's service organization, provides a platform of advocacy, education and research, communication, adaptive sports and recreation for veterans paralyzed as a result of spinal cord injury or dysfunction, in an effort to afford them with the highest quality of healthcare and life experiences.

## OUR COMMITMENT

Paralyzed Veterans of America Central Florida strives to keep veterans with spinal cord injuries or dysfunction connected through core programs that assist them in obtaining veteran's benefits in a timely manner by providing them with a liaison with VA Medical Centers or other institutions where members receive healthcare, by publishing a monthly magazine that keeps them informed of what is happening nationally and locally in legislature that directly effects them and their families and by providing opportunities in adaptive sports and recreation in an effort to enhance a lifetime of health and fitness, in order to offer a better quality of life.

## Message from the National Director

I attended both the Annual Convention, where our Chapter hosted the event, and the Fall Board Meeting in Cleveland. I was in attendance every day, at both venues, voted and discussed issues among my peers.

Later in the year I stepped down from my position as National Director and after notifying the president and the National Secretary of my intentions to resign the board appointed Craig Enenbach to the position.

It has been my pleasure to serve on the Board and represent our Chapter throughout the years.

Respectfully Submitted  
Steve Kirk

## Message from the President

This is the time of the year when I have the honor of stating what we as a chapter did for the past year. Or, what happened on my watch. We did a lot and I will try to keep it short.

Knowing that 60% of chapter members are Vietnam veterans we joined with Department of Defense to present pins and certificates to honor Vietnam veterans. We continue, even now, to finalize the endeavor. If you served during the Vietnam War era and have not received a commemorative pin, please call the chapter office and we will get one to you.

At our General Membership meeting we approved bylaws in conjunction with National's wishes to help the chapter run more smoothly. Also, with National, we donated to their Education Foundation and gave \$500 each to the research, education and clinical practice guidelines funds.

As the closest chapter to Jacksonville we hosted the Annual National Convention on May 16<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The chapter provided goody bags and shirts. A good number of Chapter members attended and watched the proceedings first hand.

Wheels on the Go, was and still is, a viable program that began with a grant from National and is now funded by the chapter. This past year the chapter spent \$6,890.00 reimbursing members for their expenses to go out on the town and have fun.

For building improvement, we replaced all the fluorescent bulbs and all exterior lights with LED lights. The electric bill is steadily declining.

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWGs) for 2018 was awarded to the chapter and the local VA. Nearly 700 participants are expected. Ken, Sean, and John (our Chapter Executive Director) attended a meeting with NVWG committee and did site visits on Feb. 23-25. The Chapter will be responsible for the opening reception, and the sale of memorabilia.

R.E.E.P. (Refurbished Equipment Exchange Program); Donations through the REEP program have exceeded \$320,000. To help accommodate this program, the chapter has decided to rent additional warehouse space. Through this program we receive donations of durable medical equipment. Volunteers come to the warehouse and check to make sure the equipment is safe, doing any necessary repairs and then we give the equipment to people in need.

We helped support the Brevard Airboat Disabled Gator Hunt by contributing \$750.

We started a new recreation program called The Get Out

and Go Program. Special thanks for this program goes to Dale Greer and his wife Melissa for their support in memory of Dale's brother, US Army Veteran and Vietnam War Veteran Bill Greer. Dale Greer, a donor interested in purchasing two all-terrain power chairs for members to use on outings presented a check for \$15,860. The Chapter received 2 beach power wheelchairs on July 11, 2016 at a cost of \$15,060. Two 4'x8' trailers were also purchased at a cost of \$800. This program was developed to offer members resources to make beach visits more feasible. The beach chairs can be seen on our web page and members can reserve them online through a drop down tab on the web page.

A 2003 Ford Windstar was donated to the chapter in 2016. It was decided by the Board of Directors to keep the van for chapter use until after the 2018 NVWGs and revisit what we do with the van after the 2018 NVWG have passed.

The chapter decided to support the CLC Bingo night throughout the next year at a cost of up to \$1300. Each week bingo games are called at the CLC and credits to use at the Canteen are awarded to winners.

I presented a written proposal from chapter member Roger Sack detailing how he feels he could help the chapter in the areas of Sports and Recreation and Advocacy. The board then decided to approve a part time position of Director of Sports and Recreation and Advocacy. Executive Director John DeMauro interviewed a couple of people for the position and has offered the position to Roger Sack. Roger is expected to begin working for the chapter the beginning of January.

Board training was conducted in early November and representatives from National conducted the training over a two day period. All board members attended the training and felt it was very much worth their time.

In September Bill Hannigan and Ken Weas were elected to fill two open board positions making up the Class of 2019.

Solar Bear tickets were purchased for member use. Tickets are available flexible dates during the 2016/17 season for chapter members to use.

Keith Jackson from Eureka Realty visited a board meeting this past year and shared information about educating and increasing financial literacy for veterans when purchasing a home. A Veteran Housing Summit was held on November 12, 2016 at the Association of Poinciana Villages from 8:00am – 3:00pm.

Information was discussed about accessibility of the chapter office. Executive Director John DeMauro is working on getting quotes to have doors updated throughout the office, to ensure full accessibility.

## Committees

Advocacy: John DeMauro and Sean Gibbs

By-Laws: John DeMauro, Brian Terwilliger, Sean Gibbs and Steve Kirk

Nominating: Jim Trago and Brain Terwilliger

Finance Committee: Charles Merritt, Steve Kirk, John DeMauro and Craig Enenbach

CLO: Ken Carter

Sports and Recreation: Brain Terwilliger

Membership/Volunteer: Brenda Ciccarello and Patricia Griffith

Newsletter Editor: Steve Kirk

National Service Officers: David Ray (Orlando) Earnest Hill (Lake City)

## Message from the Vice President

As another year passes, I take this time to remind myself of what I did last year and what I want to do in the upcoming year. PVA Central Florida has seen great progress this year.

**New Board members:** It's unfortunate that any organization loses its more mature leaders, but we have brought on 3-4 new young members to pass the torch to the next generation of PVA members.

**Begun planning for the 2018 NVWG:** Orlando has been accepted as the host location for the 2018 National Veterans wheelchair Games. We are currently working on finding the right PVACF members to fill seats for the many sub-committees to help make 2018 the best Games possible.

**2016 NVWG:** I don't know that PVA Central Florida has ever had a "Team" to represent them at a NVWG. But in 2016, PVACF fully funded eight athletes to attend and compete in the Games in Salt Lake City. We expect that number to possibly double for the 2017 NVWG in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Legislation Advocacy:** Chapter ED John DeMauro and chapter VP Sean Gibbs attended the 2016 Legislation Advocacy Seminar in Washington, D.C.. We had "Point Papers" to talk about, and seemed to speak mostly about "The importance of keeping the VA as a preferred Specialty of Care hospital system".

**Summer Blast:** For the past 2 years, PVACF has hosted a Summer Blast. It's an event that caters to the families and children of PVACF members. It was created for the intent of growing the relationship between the chapter and the younger members whom might have children. Quite honestly, it has become a favorite for my 4-year-old son. We rent bounce houses, snow cone machines, serve ice cream, watermelon and other candies.

**Christmas Party:** Just a couple weeks before Christmas, PVACF hosts a Christmas Party for any members who would like to attend. The chapter is decorated beautifully. We have a caterer do a nice dinner and exchange gifts. This event allows the chapter employees, Board members and any other chapter members to enjoy themselves in a laid-back social setting for the evening.

**Website:** PVACF has worked hard to improve its website through the use of social media and marketing techniques.

**Jerry Dugan Memorial Charity Golf Tournament:** PVACF hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Jerry Dugan memorial Charity Golf Tournament. Thanks to the hard work of the office at PVACF, this golf tournament was another positive income source for our chapter.

## Message from the Executive Director

"Here we are again, as in olden days, happy golden days" remembering all that the chapter has done in the last year. As a part of my annual report to our membership I want to highlight the activities of 2016. We started the year with a bang, in January, at the Mecum Auto Auction in Kissimmee, Florida where a customized Jeep was auctioned off for the benefit of PVA National. The Chapter received \$3,000 from the proceeds. February is when we started to "gear up" for the 2018 National Veterans Wheelchair Games by visiting the potential local venues. After spending three days on the road and traveling a total of 269 miles crisscrossing the greater Orlando area, the group was excited about the possibilities. In late February President Steve Kirk and I attended a special luncheon at Deloitte in Lake Mary, where over 100 employees of Deloitte participated in a fundraiser for the Chapter. Steve and I both spoke to the group and afterwards we were presented with a check for \$2,500 for the Chapter. March took Chapter Vice President Sean Gibbs and me to Washington DC for a week, where we represented the Chapter at the Advocacy Seminar. We spent two days rolling the halls of Congress, speaking with our Representatives, advocating on behalf of our membership. In April students from Keiser University stopped by to spend a few hours learning about the issues people have when confined to a wheelchair. May found the Chapter hosting the 70th Annual National PVA Convention in Jacksonville, Florida. Around Memorial Day the Chapter provided a float for the Sanford Memorial Day Parade on May 30, 2016. Boy Scout Troop 501 did the float preparation and marched with the members that were able to make it. We had the float, our chapter truck and a bicycle peddled by Dave Mathews carrying a wheelchair tribute to a fallen brother. In June the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Jerry Dugan Memorial Charity Golf Tournament took place at The Legacy at Alaqua Lakes Country Club. The tournament was very successful. We raised over \$21,000. The date for this year's tournament has been set for Monday, February 27, 2017. Also in June we sent 8 members and their caregivers to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Salt Lake City, Utah. Virtually all expenses were paid for by the Chapter and our folks brought home 31 medals. We are looking

forward to sending even more to the game in Cincinnati, Ohio this summer. The Games ended in early July and staff took some much needed and very much earned vacation before gearing up for the end of our fiscal year. The Summer Blast took place in early August. We had food trucks, bounce houses, water slides and an ice cream truck. Everything was free to those attending. This event was open to both members and their families and the general public was invited by our membership. Over 60 people attended and a great time was had by all. We expect that this summer the Summer Blast will bring over 100 people to our facility in Sanford for food, fun and frolic in the sun. The Volunteer Appreciation Banquet was held in September at the Westin. This event was by invitation only, where we honored those who volunteered consistently throughout the year, giving over 2,700 hours of volunteer service to the Chapter. In October National Director Steve Kirk and I attended the National Fall Board Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio. While there we had the opportunity to visit the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Steve had me take his picture beside Ringo Starr's drums. We also received notification from National in October telling us that our bid for hosting the 2018 National Veterans Wheelchair Games was accepted. We will keep you informed about the preparation for the 2018 Games throughout 2017 and will be calling on many of you for your support and help to make the Games in Orlando, Florida the best in their 38 years of conducting the Games. November meant more than turkey to PVACF. In November the Seminole County Harley Owners Group had a poker run raising money to support our chapter. 2016 drew to an end on December 17<sup>th</sup> with our Holiday Party. This year we added a tent and open bar serving beer and wine for a "happy hour" from 5-6pm. We had a dozen or more people attend that had never been to the Holiday Party before. Over 60 people attended and everyone seemed to have a great time. A shout out goes to Pat Griffith for her hard work and many, many hours of preparation to make it one of the best we have had so far. It really has been a great year and I can only wonder what next year will bring our way!

**Statement of Support, Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances 2016**

**Report of Assets and Liabilities**

**Support and Revenue**

Contributions	\$ 7,637.00
Publications	0.00
Investment Income	0.00
Donated Equipment and Services	109,695.00
Membership Dues	0.00
Rent Income	0.00
State Grants	0.00
PVA Grants	160,058.00
Fundraising	48,536.00
Other	45,145.00

Total Support and Revenue \$371,071.00

**Expenses**

Program Services

Membership and Benefits	\$329,982.00
Public Affairs	0.00
Research	2,000.00

Total Program Services \$331,982.00

Support Services

General and Administration	\$61,878.00
Fundraising	1,835.00

Total Support Services \$63,713.00

Total Expenses \$395,695.00

Support and Revenue over/under expenses (\$24,624.00)

Fund Transfers 0.00

Non-Operating Revenue \$88,982.00  
 Fund balances, beginning of year \$1,087,851.00  
 Fund balances, end of year \$1,152,209.00

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	48,052
Marketable Securities	977,999
Prepaid Expenses	1,466
Property & Equipment, net of Accumulated Depreciation	125,058
Utility Deposits	550
Other	<u>142</u>

Total Assets \$1,152,575

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	366

TOTAL NET ASSETS \$1,152,209



# **Paralyzed Veterans of America**

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