



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Central Florida Chapter

ANNUAL REPORT

2019/2020

Officers and Directors

President

Steve Kirk

Vice President

Sean Gibbs

Secretary

Jimmy Green

Treasurer

Brian Terwilliger

Board of Directors

Danny Guppenberger (Class of 2021)

David Rountree (Class of 2021)

Roger Sack (Class of 2022)

Ken Weas (Class of 2022)

Tim Wolfe (Class of 2023)

James "Eddie" Hawks (Class of 2023)

National Director

Craig Enenbach

Staff

Executive Director: John DeMauro

Office Manager: Joanne Poretti

Chapter Hospital Liaison: Tim Wolfe

Director of Advocacy: Kenneth Weas

Director of Sports and Recreation: Sean Gibbs

Finance Committee: Brian Terwilliger, Steve Kirk, Craig Enenbach, Sean Gibbs and John DeMauro

Membership/Volunteer: Brenda Ciccarello

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

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 President

Steve Kirk

Once again I have the distinction of informing you, our members, of what I have participated in this year. When I say I, it is mandatory by me to say it couldn't be done without the great staff and board members I am fortunate to have working with me. Here is what we accomplished during this last year.

We had a banking change. We ceased banking with Bank of America and began business with Center State Bank. The personal touch from a smaller bank is so much better, it makes banking a pleasure. On the unpleasable side, the Chapter accepted a proposal to maintain the roof of our building. Getting the leaks stopped has been worth the extra expense.

Thanks to John DeMauro, our Executive Director, and his diligence, the Guide Star Rating for the Chapter is now a Platinum Rating which is the highest possible. Speaking of John, he received a draft copy of the 2018/2019 Annual Audit. He sent an electronic copy to each board member for them to review and respond with an acceptance or non-acceptance of the document. All 10 board members accepted the audit.

We at the Chapter were very impressed when Mr. Paul Berteram from The Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs presented a short program on his organization and its benefit to our members. They have some very well trained dogs.

One of the events we had before the virus hit, was our Holiday Party. It was a huge success, and was held at the Marriott in Lake Mary, Fl. It was the most attended ever with the largest amount of members. It was decided by the board that we should secure this venue for the following year's holiday party.

John and Sean attended the Advocacy Seminar in Washington DC the first week in March. I had applied for funding from National. Since we have 18 representatives to visit, it takes at least two people to complete the task. We were successful getting National to fund both attendees.

For short time we had a Chapter Hospital Liaison program. Tim Wolf did a great job. He submitted written reports and attended the Site Visit at the James A. Haley VA. Unfortunately, the program was suspended by National.

John reported that the Annual Report had been printed and sent to membership who did not have email addresses on record. Those who we have email addresses for were sent an electronic copy. It is also available on the website.

We were impressed by Josh Van Wynsberghe, RJ Kliefeld and Josh Katsur. They are in the development stages of creating a new wheelchair and wanted to get feedback from wheelchair users. We were delighted to do so. Later, they donated to our golf tournament, a genuine plus. However, our golf tournament was rescheduled for September 26th 2020. Which was better than our Spring Fling, which had to be cancelled along with the 2020 National Veterans Wheelchair Games. However, there was a condensed form of the National Veteran Wheelchair Games conducted virtually of which a few of our members participated. That was followed by the National Convention being held virtually. I, our National Director Craig Enenbach and Executive Director John DeMauro all participated in the meetings virtually via Zoom.

Early in the year it was decided to reinstate the Wheels on the Go program with \$10,000 at a maximum of \$500 per member, per fiscal year. However the Wheels on the Go- Program was suspended until further notice due to the pandemic. It didn't seem right to encourage our members to get out while being asked to quarantine by the Center for Disease Control.

Because of the Covid-19 Virus, we sent each voting member a gift card for \$100 as a stimulus response from the Chapter. Because of the virus the Chapter applied for and received a 31k PPP loan from government to help keep business running during the shutdown. The Board determined the office would continue to stay on the Covid 19 lockdown schedule. Staff returned to office with masks in late April, but no visitors or members were allowed in the office. A four phased plan, to reintroduce chapter programs, was put together by Sean Gibbs and John DeMauro. The plan will be implemented once the pandemic subsides.

There were Board nominations and Steve Kirk nominated Tim Wolfe. Tim Wolfe nominated Eddie Hawks. Two board positions were available. President Steve Kirk appointed a nominating committee: Roger Sack, Ken Weas and Brian Terwilliger. Ballots were sent, and we had 80+ ballots returned which was a new record. Later, Tim Wolfe and Eddie Hawks were elected to the board and were sworn in at the September meeting.

We had volunteers calling members with a questionnaire. Many members were contacted. New and useful information was gathered and contact information was updated.

A fundraiser for the Chapter was held July 17th at Racks Billiards in Sanford. It went well despite the fact the Coved virus kept many members from attending.

2020-2021 Budget as presented. With-in it was funds for two \$1,000 scholarships for veterans attending Seminole State College. The board is reviewing the process we will use to determine eligible recipients.

The Chapter decided to create a Covid-19 relief grant for members in need. Later, John reported that the chapter received 4 requests for assistance and the committee approved 3 (2 for \$500 each and 1 for \$279.23) for a total of \$1,279.23.

We decided to sponsor the Champion's Ride and also, in other sports, the Chapter ordered the six lane Athena scoring system for air rifle competition.

On September 26th 2020 we held our Jerry Dugan Annual Golf Tournament. \$36,460 was pledged in sponsorships and even more was raised at the event. We came close to having 120 golfers. Boxed lunches from Mission BBQ was a nice touch. There were limited raffle items due to Covid-19. Ken Weas stated, on behalf of the BOD, a heartfelt thank you to John and Joanne for the hard work they put in to make the Golf Tournament a huge success.

The Building Committee met and decided to engage Elite Construction to remodel the chapter building. The committee will meet with the contractor on December 8th to go over the details of the project. Advisory Board Member Ephraim Grubbs (a licensed contractor) will oversee the project on behalf of the chapter. Ephraim is a retired Lt. Col. and has a professional relationship with our Executive Director through Rotary.

I hope this gives everyone an idea of what I have been involved with and where the Chapter has been and where it's headed in the future.

Message from the Vice President

Sean Gibbs

2020 has been a very challenging year for our members and our chapter. The COVID-19 virus has presented both challenges and opportunities. PVA Central Florida Chapter has worked hard this year to maintain our mandated programs while also respecting the importance of safety. The following is a review of our progress.

Board of Directors

Our board has a solid group of members dedicated to improving the quality of life for all members. The BOD decided earlier in the year that it would be safest to move the monthly meeting to an online platform. Our first meeting found a surprising increase in member participation. In the November meeting, the board decided to promote these meetings to all members in the hope of increasing the participation of members that have not participated before.

Spring Fling

The Spring Fling was cancelled this year due to COVID-19

Holiday Party

We scheduled the party and relied heavily on safety protocols to keep the risk of COVID spread as low as possible for this event.

Wheelchair Games

The NVWG was cancelled this year due to COVID-19

Advocacy

Chapter ED John DeMauro and Chapter VP Sean Gibbs attended the 2020 Legislation Advocacy Seminar in Washington D.C. We had “Point Papers” to present to our elected Congressmen and Senators. We seemed to speak mostly about “The importance of keeping the VA as a preferred Specialty of Care hospital system”.

In September, I spoke to our E.D., John DeMauro about handing the Advocacy responsibilities to another member. Ken Weas has accepted the responsibility of director for the Advocacy program.

Sports

2020 has become a very challenging year for sports. In June, I accepted the lead position of Sports Director. Unfortunately, the COVID virus has made sports programs a very challenging position. Our ED, John DeMauro and I worked together to produce a 4-step “Reopening” process. We both agreed that there needs to be a balance between safety and health. We have relied on this process considerably in the past 3 months and will continue to use it to help us “reopen” the sports programs as safely as possible. I also submitted a full fiscal year budget.

Golf Tournament

PVACF hosted its 6th 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. I am happy to report that we were not notified of any spread of COVID at this event.

2020 has been a challenging year for PVA Central Florida. But I feel strongly that our chapter has become a better chapter and we used this COVID experience to find ways to improve. We look forward to 2021 and utilizing what we learned in 2020 to improve our membership numbers, our financial position, our sports programs, and our advocacy opportunities. I am pleased with our current leadership and hope we can continue to grow in the years to come.

Message from the National Director

Craig F. Enenbach

The Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) holds three Board of Directors (BOD) Meetings per fiscal year. One is a teleconference, which took place on January 14, 2020, to satisfy a Better Business Bureau mandate to have three BOD meetings every year. The other two BOD meetings are much more involved and encompass several days of very serious business. Each fully functioning chapter of PVA is entitled to have one National Director (ND). The body of ND's comprise the PVA BOD and only those individuals are allowed to vote on the business of PVA. Each chapter is entitled to one vote. Previously, the number of members determined PVA votes, so some chapters had two votes (minimum) while other chapters had as many as 15, 18, or 22 votes. The One-Chapter-One-Vote concept was adopted several years ago. Therefore, Central Florida has one vote on each issue.

The PVA Annual Convention was scheduled for Dallas, Texas, however, due to the COVID-19 the in-person meeting was canceled. Instead the meeting was conducted on ZOOM with as many as 111 participants on May 26 – 29, 2020. There were 8 Resolutions presented and 6 passed. Resolutions form the basis for changing PVA's Policy and/or Procedures. Any ND, Past PVA President, PVA Executive Committee member or the PVA Executive Director can present a resolution. Sometimes there is little or no debate and others command hours of testimony bringing forward the pros and cons of each resolution.

The Fall Meeting of the PVA BOD was scheduled for the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, FL, however, the in-person meeting was canceled due to COVID-19. In its place, a ZOOM meeting was held October 19 – 23, 2020. There were 16 resolutions submitted and 8 passed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 202-549-2313 or cfevette@gmail.com.

Message from the Executive Director

John DeMauro

2020 started out great. Early in the year, we began planning for our normal chapter events such as the National Advocacy Seminar in early March, our annual Spring Fling that is usually held in April (which is PVA Awareness Month) and our Annual charity golf event (which is our chapter's major fund raiser). In January, our office was busy completing our Annual Audit and our Annual Report. Preparations were made for my and Sean Gibbs trip to Washington DC to visit our congressional representatives and advocate for our membership. Flights and housing were secured and appointments were scheduled. In February, I had secured flights for members who were planning to attend the National Veteran Wheelchair Games in Portland, Oregon, with Alaska Airlines (who only had one direct flight out of Orlando, Florida per day). I spent hours on the phone, with an airline representative, making sure our members and their caregivers were each assigned the perfect seats and would have the assurance that their durable medical equipment would be handled safely. Arrangements were made for housing when in Portland and athletes were being guided through the registration process for the Games. The first week in March, Sean Gibbs and I traveled to Washington DC for the Advocacy Seminar. We were just beginning to hear about a virus that could cause you to become very sick, that was being detected in China and on the West Coast of the United States. As we were navigating the DC area, we tried to make sure we wore gloves but at the time did not have any idea how serious the virus could be. No one was wearing masks then and we used the public transportation system, just as we had done in years past. After a week in DC we came home on March 8th only to learn 5 days later that the entire country was beginning to shut down due to the deadly COVID-19 virus running rampant throughout the country and on March 17th we shut down the office and canceled all programs of the chapter for two weeks. As things got worse around the country, we ended up canceling the Spring Fling and postponing our annual golf tournament

until early fall. As we all dealt with the virus and its dangerous consequences, decisions needed to be made about how we would conduct business moving forward. With the threat of losing our largest fundraising event of the year, we decided to file for the Payroll Protection Program and the chapter was approved for a \$32,000 forgivable loan. We ended up keeping the office closed to the membership and the public for nearly 6 months and we have since allowed only limited access, requiring everyone entering the building to wear masks and maintain social distancing. Joanne and I staggered our time in the office in an effort to stay safe and healthy. Currently, she is working in the office and I am working primarily remotely. We have put together a four-phase plan for reopening and are monitoring the severity of the virus in our area. Based upon the information we have been receiving, we have bounced back and forth between phases 1 and 2 all year. In May, the Board of Directors voted to send each member a \$100 Amazon Gift Card, to help with his or her expenses during this pandemic. The total cost of this effort was \$35,000. In June the Board then decided to send each member two masks with the PVACF logo printed on them. Additionally the Board set aside \$15,000 for a Chapter Member Grant Program to help members in desperate need during the pandemic. As the summer came, it was evident that a vaccine for the virus wasn't coming soon and the virus continued to cause havoc throughout the nation. I made a decision to keep the chapter closed to all programming and that we would go ahead with our annual golf tournament scheduled in late September. At the same time we decided we would open the office for a couple of air rifle competitions but participation was by appointment only and masks were mandatory. We also opened our outdoor programs. Our 6th Annual Jerry Dugan Memorial Charity Golf Tournament was a great success, with 114 golfers participating. Following CDC recommendations, everyone stayed safe while giving to a great cause. The tournament ended up being our best ever and we raised over \$45,000. In October, we decided we would plan our Holiday Party, limit the attendance in order to keep the CDC recommended distancing for indoor events, and follow the local city mandates for crowd size. The event took place in mid-December and everyone was subject to a temperature check and required to wear masks when not eating. Considering the circumstances of 2020, we had a good year. As we move forward into 2021, we hope the VA will be offering our members the opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and that as many as possible will receive the vaccine.

Message from the Treasurer

Brian Terwilliger

Below are the Paralyzed Veterans of America Central Florida Chapter financials for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, drawn from our 2019-2020 Audit conducted by the accounting firm of Schafer, Tschopp, Whitcomb, Mitchell & Sheridan, LLP 541 S. Orlando Avenue, Suite 300 Maitland, FL 32751

**Statement of Support, Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances
2019/2020**

Support and Revenue	2019/2020	2018/2019
Contributions	\$ 22,983	\$ 26,361
Donated Equipment and Services	103,452	110,256
Membership Dues	0	0
Rent Income	0	0
State Grants	21,857	25,000
PVA Grants	147,454	161,933
Fundraising	39,564	36,796
Other	41,174	11,939
Total Support and Revenue	\$376,484	\$372,285
Expenses	2019/2020	2018/2019
<u>Program Services</u>		
Membership and Benefits	\$ 262,638	\$ 265,718
Public Affairs	159,648	80,245
Research	1,500	1,500
Total Program Services	\$ 423,786	\$ 347,463
<u>Support Services</u>		
General and Administration	\$ 63,096	\$ 53,062
Fundraising	6,100	13,190
Total Support Services	\$ 69,196	\$ 66,252
Total Expenses	\$ 492,982	\$ 413,715
Support and Revenue over/under expenses	\$ (116,498)	\$ (41,430)
Fund Transfers	\$ 0	\$ 0
Non-Operating Revenue	\$ 0	0
Fund balances, beginning of year	\$ 1,303,762	\$ 1,312,964
Fund balances, end of year	\$ 1,310,887	\$ 1,303,762

Report of Assets and Liabilities

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 197,167	\$ 47,633
Marketable Securities	\$ 1,025,807	\$ 1,102,214
Prepaid Expenses	0	0
Durable Medical Equipment	\$ 13,657	\$ 69,853
Property & Equipment, net of Accumulated Depreciation	<u>\$ 96,056</u>	<u>\$ 102,610</u>
Total Assets	\$1,332,687	\$ 1,322,340

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	\$ 21,800	\$ 18,578
Accounts Payable	0	0
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$1,332,687	\$1,322,340