



ANNUAL REPORT

2023/2024

Officers and Directors

President

Steve Kirk

Vice President

Roger Sack

Secretary

James Eddie Hawks

Treasurer

Brian Terwilliger

Board of Directors

Danny Guppenberger (Class of 2024)

David Rountree (Class of 2024)

Ken Weas (Class of 2025)

Jimmy Green (Class of 2025)

Tim Wolfe (Class of 2026)

Amy Patterson (Class of 2026)

National Director

Tim Wolfe

Executive Director: John DeMauro

Office Manager: Joanne Poretti

Newsletter Editor: Steve Kirk

Director of Advocacy: Tim Wolfe

Director of Sports: Roger Sack

Director of Recreation: David Rountree

Finance Committee: Brian Terwilliger, Steve Kirk,
John DeMauro

Membership/Volunteer: Brenda Ciccarello

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

Sports Committee: Roger Sack, Tim Wolfe, Jimmy
Green, Brian Terwilliger, Eddie Hawks, David
Rountree, Steve Kirk

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

This past year started out great with the chapter continuing to see progress in its effort to serve its membership. The first quarter of the year was spent getting our house in order as we anticipated the completion of our new warehouse. Then, on May 2, 2024, I had a serious automobile accident that nearly cost me my life. Although I am thankful for Seminole Hospital for initially doing what was necessary to keep me alive during the first few days after the accident. It went downhill from there. I ended up in Autonomic Dysreflexia twice within 36 hours and both times needed to be resuscitated, resulting in a tracheotomy and having a pacemaker put in. Thankfully, while at the PVA National Board of Director's meeting in Minnesota, our Chapter Executive Director met with the PVA leadership of Medical Services and things were put into action to get me moved from the local hospital in Sanford to the VA Hospital in Tampa. My recovery continues to be slow but despite some setbacks throughout the year, there is light at the end of what has been a long tunnel, and I hope to be back home soon. In the meantime, our chapter Executive Director and I have been having regular phone conversations and the work of the chapter has continued without interruption. I am certain 2025 will be a much better year for me and for our chapter.

Message from the Vice President

Roger Sack

Part of my duties as Vice President are to assist the President of the chapter and continue to oversee the position of Sports Director. My role as Sports Director is to continue to build up, maintain and grow different sporting programs for our members to participate in throughout the year. Some of our chapter members participated in Air Rifle, Air Pistol, Archery, Basketball, Billiards, Boccia, Bowling, E-Sports, Fishing (Fresh water and Salt), Golf, Handcycling, Hunting, Sled Hockey, Shooting Sports, Softball, Track and Field and Snow Skiing. Our Sports Coordinators, who help oversee many of their various passions for sports, help us to accomplish our programming services to our veterans. As Sports Director, I work alongside them, allowing them the flexibility to create new ways to build our programs with excellence. Our Sports Coordinators are Air Rifle/Air Pistol/ Shooting Sports: Tim Wolf/Roger Sack; Archery: Roger Sack; Basketball: Jimmy Green; Billiards: Amir Pishdad, Jr.; Boccia: David Rountree/Steve Kirk; Bowling: Eddie Hawks/Roger Sack;

Fishing: Eddie Hawks; Handcycling: Amir Pishdad, Jr.; Hunting: Eddie Hawks/Roger Sack; Sledge Hockey: Roger Sack; Softball: Jimmy Green; NVWG Coach: Jimmy Green; Track and Field: Jimmy Green/Roger Sack; Snow Skiing: Jimmy Green/Roger Sack. The PVA Central Florida Chapter has members participating with Move United, Brooksville Rehabilitation, Orlando VA Medical Center Sports and Recreation, Heroes United Golf Scramble League, PGA Hope, PVA Bass Tour, PVA Bowling, PVA Handcycling, National Veterans Wheelchair Games, Orlando Dreamplex, Florida Disabled Anglers and Bass Club Florida- Central Florida Region, Patriots 4, Tohopakeliga High School NJROTC, AGED, Florida Adaptive Sports, and Brian Roddy Golf Academy. Through these PVACF Partnerships, our members continue to participate with and build new relationships in building our Sports programs. Through our partnerships, we have been able to grow our programs with local merchants to offer Archery and Fly-fishing clinics and a Central Florida Veteran Bowling League. In addition, we have offered specialized training programs for the Orlando VA Adaptive Sport Program, through our Move United grants, to expand our Air Rifle/Air Pisto and Boccia in preparation for the Golden Age Games in 2024. Through our continued efforts, our veterans are continuing to have more and more opportunities to enjoy life to the fullest. Thank You PVACF Sports Coordinators in serving your membership well.

Message from the National Director

Tim Wolfe

This was my first year serving as the Chapter National Director. It has been a learning experience as I navigated through the enormous amount of information coming from our National Organization. From policies to budgets to legislation PVA supports, I have gained a greater understanding of the importance of our organization and its effects on the lives of our membership. I have gained greater appreciation of who we are and why paralyzed veterans need PVA to help advocate for them and for helping preserve the benefits provided through the healthcare system of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Message from the Secretary

James "Eddie" Hawks

My name is James (Eddie) Hawks and I am the Secretary for the Paralyzed Veterans of America Central Florida Chapter board of directors. My duties are to record all board meeting minutes and to participate in any board decisions that require a vote. I also participate in adapted sports representing our chapter. I attended the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in New Orleans where I received two Silver and one bronze medal. I attended the PVA bowling tournament in Tampa, Fl where I finished 2nd in doubles and 5th in singles. I also participated in the PVA bass tournament in Eufaula, Oklahoma. I helped organize and participated in the annual Jerry Dugan Golf tournament fund raiser for the chapter. I was on the building committee that recently received our certificate of occupancy of our new warehouse.

Message from the Government Relations Director

Tim Wolfe

The work of Government Relations is one of the most important things we do. Through Government Relations we communicate to our local, state and federal legislators the needs of our members. Through this program of PVA, we evaluate how government is managing the agencies that directly affect the healthcare and lifestyles of our membership. We work with our legislators to ensure that current laws are adhered to by both the government and the public and work with them in passing future legislation that will both benefit our membership as well as the disabled community. This past year I attended monthly meetings of the Association of Chapter Government Directors and spent four days in Washington DC speaking with our congressional representatives and our state senators about issues that concern our members.

Message from the Office Manager

Joanne Poretti

It has been another exciting year here at PVA Central Florida Chapter! Let me start by once again thanking our outstanding group of Volunteers! We absolutely could not do half of what we do here at the Central Florida Chapter, if it were not for our dedicated group of volunteers. From the endless hours, you have all donated, to the constant yearlong preparation it takes to organize our Annual Jerry Dugan Memorial Charity Golf Event, to just showing up when something needs to be cleaned, set up, moved, picked up, delivered, or sorted! We sincerely thank you all for your dedication to our veterans and our Chapter!

This year REEP (Repurposed Equipment Exchange Program), helped our community with \$1,017,369.00 worth of equipment to 3675 needy people. I am humbled each time we provide a life-changing piece of equipment to someone in need. It is such a great feeling to see self-confidence in someone's eyes when they get just a sliver of independence back or for a caregiver to receive a piece of equipment that helps to make their day a little bit easier. Since we started this program in 2015, we have distributed over \$3,500,000.00 worth of durable medical equipment to people in need in our community. Picking up and dropping off donations, our truck/van traveled 3982 miles this year, costing the chapter \$9,511.26 for fuel and maintenance expenses. We received 33 donations from donors totaling \$13,142.89. This total includes a \$10,000.00 donation, again this year, from a local foundation to facilitate expenses for this program. This is the sixth year this foundation has helped support this program.

A local partner of PVACF, AGED, has been a big asset in helping with this program. We participated in donation days at the AGED office in Longwood again this year, and it was a big success. We are planning to keep this on our agenda, annually, to help ensure that people in need get the equipment they need.

We received funds from events held by various local organizations in Central Florida. Checks totaling \$10,549.71 were presented to us last year. Additionally, we received over \$90,000 in individual donations throughout the year.

We are gearing up for the 11th Annual Jerry Dugan Memorial Charity Golf Tournament, with the continued generosity of our outstanding group of volunteers, sponsors, members, and our community we are hoping to top last year's total raised at the event.

Message from the Executive Director

John DeMauro

The early part of the year we spent soliciting sponsors and golfers for our 10th Annual Jerry Dugan Memorial Charity Golf Tournament. This is the largest fund raiser for our chapter and has many moving parts. It involves nearly 25 volunteers both before, during and after the event. We are extremely thankful for all those who participate each year. The tournament raised over \$71,000. This year's golf tournament will be April 26, 2025, and will once again be held at the Venetian Bay Golf Club in New Smyrna Beach. The funds we raise at this event help support the overall program of the chapter. The day before the golf tournament, I was informed of our Chapter President's auto accident. He was on his way to the chapter bowling event. Steve has been in the hospital since May 2, 2024 and is hoping to get home soon. It took us a while to get him transferred from the hospital in Sanford to the Tampa VA but by June he was in Tampa. Our members need to remind their family that in the event of finding yourself in a hospital, outside of the VA, to let the chapter know so that we can help get you to the proper place for care. Too often secular hospitals have no idea how to care for people with a spinal cord injury and can cause more damage than help. Particularly, most have no idea what Autonomic Dysreflexia is and how life threatening it is to those with paraplegia.

In May the building materials for the chapter's new warehouse were delivered and construction began not long afterwards. Construction and inspections lasted until early November, when we finally received a Certificate of Occupancy. In July the Chapter sent three members of the chapter to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. In late summer and early fall we dealt with two hurricanes with little or no damage to the property of most of our members.

Sadly, in November we lost the last charter member of the Central Florida Chapter when Board Secretary Brian Terwilliger passed on November 30th. Brian will be greatly missed. He was in the office almost every day and was always willing to do whatever needed to be done to help the chapter. In early December we celebrated his life with a Remembrance Gathering near the shores of Lake Monroe.

Message from the Treasurer's Desk

This is the Paralyzed Veterans of America Central Florida Chapter financial report for the 2022/2023 fiscal year. The accounting firm of Schafer, Tshopp, Whitcomb, Mitchell & Sheridan, LLP 541 S. Orlando Avenue, Suite 300 Maitland Florida 32751 conducted an audit. The Chapter successfully fulfilled all the mandates of our charter, with service to our members and our community. We thank our Board, Employees, Volunteers, and Donors for making this possible and look forward to continued success.

Statement of Support, Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances 2022/2023

Support and Revenue	2023/2024	2022/2023
Contributions	\$108,739	\$ 28,943
Donated Equipment and Services	368,391	303,687
Membership Dues	0	0
Rental Income	0	0
State Grants	0	31,000
PVA Grants (including GIVE Program)	166,155	166,407
Fundraising	88,965	78,648
Other	9,844	9,682
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 742,094	\$ 618,407
Expenses	2023/2024	2022/2023
<u>Program Services</u>		
Membership and Benefits	\$ 270,486	\$ 317,583
Public Affairs	366,844	289,762
Total Program Services	\$ 637,330	\$ 607,345
<u>Support Services</u>		
General and Administration	\$ 112,371	\$ 101,010
Fundraising	20,911	23,802
Total Support Services	\$ 133,282	\$ 124,812
Total Expenses	\$ 770,612	\$ 732,157
Support and Revenue over/under expenses	\$ (28,518)	\$ (113,750)

Non-Operating Support and Revenue

Dividend and interest income	\$ 38,250	\$ 26,881
Realized capital gains (loses)	\$ 76,913	\$ 9,803
Change in unrealized gain (loss) on investments	\$ 99,104	\$ 99,104
Total Non-Operating Support & Revenue	<u>\$ 201,095</u>	<u>\$ 135,788</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 172,577	\$ 22,038

Fund balances, beginning of year	<u>\$ 1,127,078</u>	<u>\$ 1,127,078</u>
Fund balances, end of year	\$ 1,321,693	\$ 1,149,116

Report of Assets and Liabilities

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 118,657	\$ 29,119
Marketable Securities	\$ 645,285	\$ 834,246
Durable Medical Equipment, at estimated value	\$ 30,012	\$ 28,465
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 0
Property & Equipment, net of Accumulated Depreciation	<u>\$ 533,500</u>	<u>\$ 269,781</u>

Total Assets **\$ 1,327,454** **\$ 1,158,611**

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities

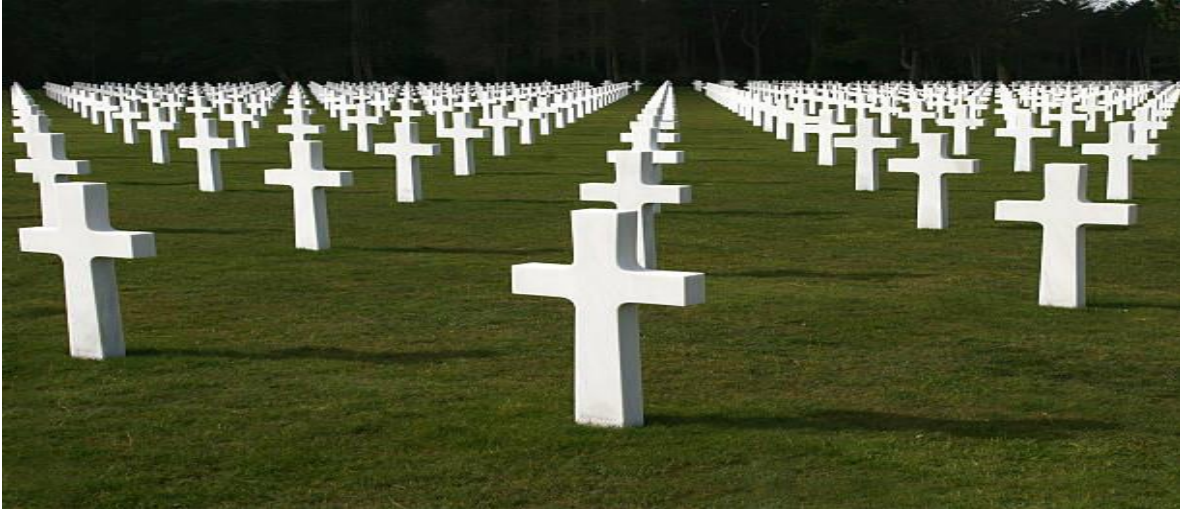
Accrued vacation & sick pay	\$ 5,761	\$ 9,495
Total current liabilities	<u>\$ 5,761</u>	<u>\$ 9,495</u>

Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions

Board Designated Funds (Building and Vehicle Funds)	\$ 285,000	\$ 285,000
Designated building contribution fund	\$ 0	\$ 15,000
Undesignated	<u>\$ 1,036,693</u>	<u>\$ 849,116</u>
Total net assets	\$ 1,321,693	\$ 1,149,116

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS **\$ 1,327,454** **\$ 1,158,611**

In Memory



David Cohen

Eric Darrow

Ezequiel Alicea

Frank Tibbitts

Jack Blum

James Garrett

James Trago

Judith Smith

Kenneth Stinson

Luther Bernhart

Neal Dowd

Peter Raynor

Roxanne LeMaster

Wayne Lampe