Paralyzed Veterans of America
New England Chapter

2018 ANNUAL REPORT
(Fiscal Year 10/01-09/30)
Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS ........................................................................................................................................... 2
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT .......................................................................................................................... 4
LEADERSHIP AND STAFF ................................................................................................................................. 5
    NEW ENGLAND PVA OFFICERS ......................................................................................................................... 5
    EXECUTIVE BOARD .......................................................................................................................................... 5
    PROGRAM DIRECTORS ...................................................................................................................................... 5
    COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS ........................................................................................................................... 5
    HOSPITAL LIAISONS ....................................................................................................................................... 6
    STAFF ..................................................................................................................................................................... 6
ADMINISTRATION .................................................................................................................................................. 7
    MEETINGS ......................................................................................................................................................... 7
    MEMBERSHIP .................................................................................................................................................. 7
    CHAPTER PUBLICATION ................................................................................................................................. 7
    SERVICE OFFICERS AND OFFICES ..................................................................................................................... 7
        Boston, MA Office ........................................................................................................................................ 8
        West Roxbury and Brockton VAMCs, MA ....................................................................................................... 8
        Togus VAMC, ME ........................................................................................................................................ 8
        Syracuse VAMC, NY .................................................................................................................................... 8
SCHOLARSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL ENRICHMENT ................................................................................ 9
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS ............................................................................................................................. 10
    ADVOCACY ................................................................................................................................................... 10
RESEARCH ............................................................................................................................................................. 11
HOSPITAL LIAISON ............................................................................................................................................ 12
    Brockton VAMC (MA) .................................................................................................................................. 13
    West Roxbury VAMC (MA) .............................................................................................................................. 13
    Northampton VAMC (MA) .............................................................................................................................. 13
    Providence VAMC (RI) .................................................................................................................................. 13
    Manchester VAMC (NH) .................................................................................................................................. 13
    West Haven VAMC (CT) .................................................................................................................................. 13
    White River Junction VAMC (VT) ..................................................................................................................... 13
    Togus VAMC (ME) ........................................................................................................................................... 14
    PVA Site Visit/Field Advisory Committee ...................................................................................................... 14
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPORTS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Veterans Wheelchair Games</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New England Winter and summer Sports Clinic for Disabled Veterans</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New England Chapter Bass Trail</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEPVA Rollers Bowling League</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNUAL BANQUET</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRS Form 990</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Letter from the President

Dear Chapter Members, Friends, and Supporters:

I present you with the Chapter’s 2018 Annual Report, which highlights its programs, activities and financials for this past fiscal year.

Over the past three years, the Chapter Board of Directors has made smart, and sometimes difficult, decisions to overcome its telemarking revenue deficit. In doing so it’s placed them in a position to present a balanced operating budget to PVA for the coming 2019 fiscal year. In addition to balancing the budget, the Chapter now has approximately a 70%/30% ratio for its Programs. That means nearly 70% of funds received by the Chapter are directly spent on the Programs themselves!

The new Chapter office location on VFW Parkway in West Roxbury, MA continues to pay dividends in easy access to the Chapter and VAMCs. Additionally, our new Admin Assistant/Bookkeeper Jerry Cole has also proved invaluable through his diligence and attention to detail in his accounting practices.

The Chapter continues to fully fund its eight PVA mandated Program while still providing ancillary services and funding to its members and healthcare professionals throughout New England. We again had great participation in our ever-popular New England Winter and Summer Sports Clinics. Although the Chapter was well represented at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games it was overshadowed by the loss of Chapter member Thom Reid during the Games. This being said, it’s always amazing to see our members out challenging themselves and living their lives to the fullest.

Always as a reminder, it’s important to point out the Chapter is not affiliated with any Federal or State government organization or Veterans Administration (VA), and therefore doesn’t receive any financial support from them. The Chapter relies solely on the generosity of its charitable donors, without whom, it wouldn’t be able to continue offering its programs and activities. We owe them a sincere “Thank you”.

Finally, as I’ve always said, and what drives my work for the Chapter, is we all have the individual capacity to make a positive difference in someone’s life. Theodore Roosevelt said it best, “Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.”

Sincerely,

Michael G. Negrete
President and Paralyzed Veteran
Leadership and Staff

NEW ENGLAND PVA OFFICERS
President Michael Negrete
Vice President Mike Guilbault
Secretary Peter Moore
Treasurer Charles Schena
National Director Neal Williams

EXECUTIVE BOARD
John Brako Walter Farrington
Mike Moran Wayne Ross
Jim Wallack Neal Williams
Mark Sanders

PROGRAM DIRECTORS
ADA Coordinator Neal Williams
Bass Trail Liaison Jim Wallack
Community Outreach Mike Guilbault
Cord Word Editor Michael Negrete
Membership Officer Mike Guilbault
MS/ALS Liaison John Brako
Peer Mentor Rep. Mike Guilbault
Sports Director Mike Guilbault
Asst. Sports Director Mike Moran
Volunteer Coordinator Jerry Cole, Debra Freed
Women’s Veteran Coord. Debra Freed

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
Finance Charles Schena
Communications Michael Negrete
LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

HOSPITAL LIAISONS

Brockton VAMC, MA         Mike Guilbault
West Roxbury VAMC, MA     Wayne Ross
Northampton VAMC, MA      Tim Kelly
Providence VAMC, RI       Mike Guilbault
Manchester VAMC, NH       Mike Moran
West Haven VAMC, CT       Peter Falcione
Whiter River Jct. VAMC, VT Mike Moran
Togus VAMC, ME            Neal Williams

STAFF

Executive Director        Debra A. Freed
Admin Asst./Bookkeeper    Gerard “Jerry” Cole
Administration

The Chapter office is located at 1208 VFW Parkway, Suite 301 West Roxbury, MA 02132 and is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This location’s proximity to VISN 1’s SCI Hub at the West Roxbury, MA VAMC provides the Chapter, its Members and local VAMCs with convenient access to one another. Additionally, this location continues to provide a significant cost savings to the Chapter in reduced lease and operating expenses, as well as, unrealized expenses and time saved by reducing commutes back-and-forth to local VAMCs. The Chapter is staffed by two full-time employees, an Executive Director/Government Relations Director and a Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant.

MEETINGS
The Board of Directors meetings are all held in the Chapter’s office conference room. The Board of Directors’ meeting convenes at 10:30 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month and is followed by a General Membership meeting at 1:00 p.m. Members are always welcome to attend and encouraged to participate in the Chapter’s monthly meetings. The Annual Membership meeting was held during the Chapter Annual Banquet.

MEMBERSHIP
As of the date of this report, the Chapter’s total membership is 842, consisting of 423 service-connected and 419 non-service connected Veterans. There are also 4 honorary and 5 affiliate members.

CHAPTER PUBLICATION
The Chapter’s CordWord newsletter is published twelve times a year as a vehicle to provide information about Chapter Programs, activities and issues of importance to our members. Articles and information appearing in the CordWord contain reports from Program Directors, Chapter Officers, Volunteers, legislative news (national and local) and other items of interest.

The CordWord is distributed to our members, affiliate members, patients on the SCI Units at the Brockton and West Roxbury VAMC, as well as the 3 SCI clinics and 3 primary care clinics in our spoke system. Distribution also extends to volunteers, VAMC officials, PVA National officers and Directors, all Congress members representing New England, and all Chapters of PVA for a total circulation of approximately 1200. The Chapter primarily distributes the Cord Word via email to its readership, but also distributes it in print to each VAMC and to those members requesting copies. Current and archived issues are always available in the office and on the Chapter website.

SERVICE OFFICERS AND OFFICES
The Chapter is very proud of its close working relationship with PVA's National Service Officers and staff throughout New England and New York. The job of the National Service Officer (NSO) is to see that each
honorably discharged veteran is receiving all the benefits and entitlements they’ve earned, and that Congress has bestowed on them. For 2018, Boston NSOs secured nearly $3.44 Million in awards for veterans in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The Togus office secured just over $5 million for veterans in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. This is a collective effort of Joseph Badzmierowski, Scott Eggleston, Brice Sutton, Ann Marie Wallace, and Violet Bates.

We are fortunate to have these dedicated and knowledgeable individuals available to assist paralyzed veterans and others in the New England area. Their offices and contact information are:

**Boston, MA Office:**
Joseph Badzmierowski, Director of Field Services and Ann Marie Wallace, Senior Secretary

Boston address: Paralyzed Veterans of America, Boston VA Regional Office, Government Center, JFK Federal Building - Room 1575 C, Boston, MA 02203. The phone numbers are: (617) 303-1395 or 1-800-795-3607.

**West Roxbury and Brockton VAMCs, MA:**

West Roxbury address: Paralyzed Veterans of America, VA Medical Center, 1400 VFW Parkway, Rm AG 60, West Roxbury, MA 02132. The phone number is: (857) 203-6091.

Brockton address: PVA National Service Office, VA Medical Center, Building 3, Room 207, 940 Belmont St., Brockton, MA 02301. The phone number is (774) 826-2219.

**Togus VAMC, ME:**
Scott Eggleston, Senior National Service Officer, Violet Bates-Secretary. Covering Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

Maine address: PVA National Service Office, Togus, VARO, 1 VA Center, Bldg. 248, Room 112, Augusta, ME 04330. The phone numbers for the Maine office are: (207) 621-7394 or 1-866-795-1911.

Service office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Service Officers visit the Brockton/West Roxbury VAMC’s on a regular basis and visit the other New England VAMC’s periodically. It is through these visits and referrals from the Chapter that our members receive assistance in applying for benefits to which they are entitled.

**Syracuse VAMC, NY:**
Charles Tocci, Area Manager

Syracuse address: PVA National Service Office, Syracuse VAMC, 8000 Irving Ave. Room C419, Syracuse, NY 13210. The phone numbers for the office are: (315) 425-4400 ext. 53317.
Scholarship and Professional Enrichment

The Scholarship and Professional Enrichment Program primarily provides funding higher education in the areas of SCI nursing and care for VA medical staff through scholarships of up to $500 per year per individual (while funds last). Scholarships are also available for members and children of Chapter members (while funds last).

In 2018, the Chapter assisted RNs Nancy Brook and Kelly Skinner with Professional Enrichment grants to attend PVA’s Annual SCI Healthcare Summit and Expo. The Summit is an intensive, three-day learning and sharing experience that provides the most updated and vital information, state of the art research, and emerging science, which can be put to immediate use in caring for individuals with spinal cord injury/disease (SCI/D), MS, and ALS.

The Chapter also assisted the following RNs from the SCI Inpatient Unit at the West Roxbury VAMC and Brockton LTC Facility.

- Nannie Joseph - $500, Wound Care Certification
- Melissa Elliott - $500, Continuing SCI Education
- Lisaangels Cardoss - $500, Continuing SCI Education
- Michele Casale - $500, Continuing SCI Education

This financial support ensures these RNs are able to stay up-to-date with current and trending healthcare practices within the SCI care community.
Government Relations

ADVOCACY

Advocacy can mean active support for an idea or cause. The Chapter is a prominent advocate for its members and the disabled community, meeting and working with our Congressional Legislators, in New England and in Washington, D.C. PVA and the Chapter remain committed to providing assistance in meeting the needs of our members, veterans, and the disabled community.

From March 3 - 9, the Chapter sent a Delegation comprised of Board Members, Staff and Volunteers to attend PVA’s Annual Government Relations Department Advocacy and Legislation Seminar in Washington, D.C. Each year, PVA’s Government Relations department hosts a training seminar to educate Chapter representatives on PVA’s current policies and legislative priorities at the start of each Congressional session. During this seminar, representatives from PVA Chapters across the country receive presentations from Government Relations staff, as well as other PVA departments, Congressional staff, and Administration officials.

The seminar included two days of briefings and discussions about the wide range of issues that the Advocacy and Legislation Programs are focusing on, and two days of grassroots advocacy activities on Capitol Hill in meetings with members of Congress and their staff. The Advocacy staff focused heavily on air travel and the Air Carrier Access Act. The Legislation staff focused on protection of specialized services and the need for reinstatement of the mandated capacity report, as well as procreative services, expansion of the VA Caregiver Program, and potential reform of the delivery of veterans’ health care.

The week concluded with the annual testimony of President David Zurfluh before a joint hearing of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans’ Affairs. President Zurfluh stressed the ongoing concerns PVA has with the VA budget and capacity management and its potential impact on the delivery of specialized health-care services in the spinal cord injury centers where our members receive the vast majority of their health care.

This year’s seminar proved to be a great success once again. The advocacy efforts of PVA members on the Hill lay the groundwork for the National Advocacy and Legislation programs efforts for the rest of this year.
Research

2019 marked the 30th Anniversary of PVA’s partnership and continued support the Yale School of Medicine’s Center for Neuroscience Research.

The Chapter has a strong commitment in supporting Spinal Cord Injury/ Dysfunction (SCI/D) research. The Chapter is convinced that the road to a cure and restoration of function is through the research laboratories. Many scientists working in the SCI/D research field are convinced that a breakthrough to a cure or restoration of function is closer than ever before. One of the highlights of the Chapter’s research efforts is participation as Consumer Reviewers in the Spinal Cord Injury Research Program (SCIRP).

Consumer Reviewers evaluate research applications submitted to the Spinal Cord Injury Research Program (SCIRP) sponsored by the Department of Defense. Typically, a three-day review panel held in Washington, D.C., Consumer Reviewers are full voting members, along with prominent scientists, at meetings to help determine how the $30 million appropriated by Congress for Fiscal Year 2018 (FY17) will be spent on future spinal cord injury research.

Consumer Reviewers represent the collective views of individuals living with a spinal cord injury (SCI), patients, and family members when they prepare comments on the impact of the research to advance the treatment and management of SCI with strategies to improve the health and well-being of individuals living with SCI.

Consumer Reviewers and scientists have worked together in this unique partnership to evaluate the scientific merit of SCI research applications since 2009. Colonel Wanda L. Salzer, M.D., Director of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs, expressed her appreciation for the perspectives of the consumer advocates in the scientific review sessions. “The Consumer Reviewers on each panel are instrumental in helping the scientists understand the patient’s perspective and provide valuable insight into the potential impact of the proposed project. They bring with them a sense of urgency and remind all of the human element involved in medical research.”

Scientists applying for funding, propose to conduct innovative SCI research aimed at the treatment of SCI and to improve the consequences. The SCIRP fills important gaps not addressed by other funding agencies by supporting groundbreaking, high-risk, high-gain research while encouraging out-of-the-box thinking.

Hospital Liaison

The Hospital Liaison Program remains the centerpiece of Chapter’s activities. Volunteer Chapter Hospital Liaisons (CHL) interact with National Service Officers, patients and staff within the VA Healthcare system throughout the New England region, which includes the Boston Healthcare System (VABHS), West Haven, CT SCI clinic, Manchester NH VAMC primary care clinic, Togus, ME SCI clinic, Northampton VA primary care clinic, White River Jct., VT SCI clinic and Providence Medical Center primary care clinic. It is through this interaction that CHLs assist members, patients, and often, family members with problems or issues that arise during a stay in the medical centers. The CHLs visit the medical centers and clinics frequently and speak with outpatients, inpatients, and staff. The Program has been extremely assistive in keeping the Chapter informed of the healthcare received and other pertinent activities going on at the SCI clinics and VAMC’s throughout the New England region.

The Chapter continues to sponsor pizza parties for SCI staff and patients on a rotating basis at the Brockton, West Roxbury, North Hampton, MA, West Haven, CT, and Manchester, NH facilities. The Chapter continues its “treat a veteran to lunch” program where donations can be made specifically to support these pizza parties, which often at times include informal meetings with staff. Those donating to this program are mentioned as sponsors on our web site.

The Chapter sponsored parties in December to celebrate the holiday season. The holiday parties were held at the Northampton VA facility, in the day room of the spinal cord injury unit (A-2) at the West Roxbury VA, at Building 8-1-C at the Brockton VA, and another at the West Haven, CT VA SCI Clinic. It is an enjoyable time for all attending to share in the holiday spirit, and a small token of the Chapter’s appreciation for the hard-working staff and volunteers.

The Chapter is represented on many medical center committees, including: the Veterans Administration Voluntary Service Advisory Committees at West Roxbury and Brockton; the VA Central Region Mini-Management Advisory Committee; the VA Boston Healthcare System Integration Advisory Board; the Brockton VAMC Veterans’ Advisory Board; and on the VISN 1 Management Advisory Committee. The Chapter is proud to have representation on these important committees within the medical centers as it allows us to provide input on issues that will have an impact on the members of the Chapter and others with disabilities.

The Chapter has developed an excellent working relationship with the medical center administrators and can access them at any time. We have built a reputation as a hard-working advocate that is willing to work with the medical center administrators to assist in providing solutions that work and will benefit the members, patients, and VA staff. We also have an excellent working relationships and communication with the Chief of the Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Service, the physicians, and the nursing personnel. Many times, this positive relationship has assisted in the prevention of problems. The Chapter has also been called upon to provide
input on issues that will have an impact on the SCI patients. We are extremely proud to have these relationships and the ability to assist in any way that will benefit the patients and improve the care that they will receive.

**BROCKTON VAMC (MA)**
Vice President Michael Guilbault is also the Chapter Hospital Liaison and VAVS Chapter representative for the Brockton Long Term Care patients at Bldg 8. He attends VAVS and as many monthly community meetings as possible. The Chapter, along with many other organizations promotes many activities for long term care as possible, providing financial assistance for bi-monthly pizza parties and donating funds towards their annual Thanksgiving and Christmas Parties as well.

**WEST ROXBURY VAMC (MA)**
Board member Wayne Ross is the Chapter Hospital Liaison and VAVS representative for West Roxbury's A-2 SCI facility. Wayne also attends VAVS meetings.

**NORTHAMPTON VAMC (MA)**
Long Time member Timothy Kelly attends the monthly SCI/D meetings at the Leeds facility.

**PROVIDENCE VAMC (RI)**
Mike Guilbault has temporarily been handling these responsibilities until a permanent CHL is appointed and can be trained.

**MANCHESTER VAMC (NH)**
Board Member Walter Farrington relays information about remodeling going on in the area of the former Spinal Cord Injury area. He and his wife, Pat Farrington, also a volunteer would host a monthly get-together providing refreshments and celebrating various occasions with attendees.

**WEST HAVEN VAMC (CT)**
Long Time Chapter member Peter Falcione has been instrumental in getting information into and out of the weekly/monthly SCI/D meetings. Peter also coordinates the annual BBQ and holiday party.

**WHITE RIVER JUNCTION VAMC (VT)**
The Chapter continues to support the newly restarted SCI/D meetings and is pleased to provide their get-togethers with light refreshments.
TOGUS VAMC (ME)
Chapter National Director and Board member Neal Williams has been the Chapter Hospital Liaison for several years. Because of his contact and work with PVA and VA, the Chapter has provided an annual pizza party for the Veterans Benefits Staff. This is just a small way to say thank you to hard-working employees who assist veterans in getting the benefits they have earned through their military service.

PVA SITE VISIT/FIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE
The PVA Site Visit Team and the Chapter’s respective Chapter Hospital Liaisons reviewed available data and met with patients, administrative staff, medical support staff, staff physicians and nurses, the Chief of SCI/D Services, and Senior Hospital Leadership at the West Roxbury VAMC and the Brockton VAMC this year.

The purpose of these site visits is to evaluate every aspect of the VAMC’s healthcare system as it effects the delivery of care to the SCI/D patients being treated at these facilities, and to make recommendation, where needed to improve upon that care.
Chapter Volunteer Program

Chapter volunteers participate in a variety of Chapter programs and the VAVS program at the Brockton/West Roxbury VAMC. Volunteers record their hours of service and miles traveled on a monthly basis, which is then submitted to PVA's National office on a monthly basis, as well.

Our Volunteer’s hours are up from 4,000 to over 6,000 this year! equating to roughly a $70,000 in savings to the Chapter.

The Chapter owes a great debt of gratitude and a special “Thank you” to all the Chapter's volunteers, for without them, many of our programs and activities would not be possible.

Pictured above standing between Chapter President Michael Negrete and Executive Director Debra Freed, is Denise Pease, our 2018 Chapter Volunteer of the Year award recipient.
Community Outreach Program

The Chapter was again pleased to provide the “What’s It Like” program to local elementary schools. This was the 34th year the Chapter has provided this program. The program is presented to school children in the third, fourth and fifth grades usually during their school’s Disability Awareness week, or for Veterans or Memorial Day events. Vice President and Program Director Mike Guilbault and a number of outstanding volunteers explain how people with disabilities live, work, and play. The program consists of a presentation about physical disabilities and explaining the use of prosthetic devices and adaptive equipment. Students then have an opportunity to try maneuvering a wheelchair through an obstacle course set up for them, and also try shooting a basketball from the wheelchair. Afterwards the presenters offer a question and answer session for the students. The Chapter has an Adaptive Sports Presentations for eighth graders and older. This presentation includes wheelchair basketball exhibitions and an opportunity for students to play scrimmage games. These school visits are enjoyed by the students, as well as the volunteers, and the Chapter continues to receive requests every year for these educational visits.

The Cunningham Elementary School in Milton, MA again held their “Bring a Vet to School Day.” This event was held the day before Veterans Day and this year, our “What’s it Like” Program was included with their Veterans Appreciation week, where students learned about Veterans Day and why we celebrate it. Any student with a veteran or active duty relative got to bring them to school that day and skip the first two periods. An event was held in the library and then moved outside where a Color Guard raised the colors while the National Anthem was played. Students in the chorus then performed patriotic songs. After the Veterans Tribute, everyone moved into the gym where the “What’s it Like” program was presented to the 4th grade classes. It was a very moving event with veterans from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and all Post 9/11 conflicts, along with current active duty soldiers present. This really gives the students a great education about both Veterans Day and military history seeing so many generations assembled who have served.

While the school program is the most often presented Community Outreach Program, the Chapter also sends members and sets up booths at various Disability Expos. We annually set up a booth and bring patients to a Pow Wow in Attleboro, MA. The NEPVA Bass Trail also gets our name out there attending multiple sportsman’s shows promoting our Bass Fishing Tournaments throughout New England. We’ve gained anglers and also volunteer boat captains for our tournaments at these shows while also meeting and forming partnerships with other organizations who also offer outdoor activities to the disabled. This is very beneficial since we now can make members aware of opportunities which may be more local to them.

The Outreach program brings awareness of PVA and New England PVA throughout the six New England states. Chapter’s ongoing Outreach program is most visible to a larger audience through wheelchairs sports exhibitions, PVA Awareness Month, The Winter Sports Clinic for Disabled Veterans in New Hampshire, The Summer Sports Clinic for Disabled Veterans in Providence, RI, and our NEPVA Bass Fishing Tournaments in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine.
Sports and Recreation Programs

Throughout its history, the Chapter has stood by the belief that active participation in wheelchair sports and recreation pays tremendous dividends in terms of physical fitness, building self-esteem, chair mobility and competitiveness. The informal peer mentoring that occurs during these activities is invaluable to recently injured individuals, and aids in their efforts to re-enter their communities after the rehabilitation process. Through the Chapter’s Wheelchair Sports & Recreation Program, we have been able to provide this valuable need to our members.

Many of the Chapter’s past and present Officers, Board Members, and Members have participated in some form of wheelchair sports or recreational activities in the Chapter’s Wheelchair Sports & Recreation Program and have first-hand knowledge of the many benefits that participation in wheelchair sports provides.

While the Chapter’s Wheelchair Sports & Recreation Programs first objective is to provide activities for Veterans with spinal cord injuries or dysfunction, we also open up our non-veteran specific wheelchair sports programs to others with disabilities. In addition to our Chapter and VA events, life members are encouraged to compete in other wheelchair sporting events hosted by others. There is limited funding available to life members of the Chapter to sponsor their participation in sports and recreational events. Life members can request an Individual Allotment, on a first-come-first-served basis, to be funded up to $500 towards such events, while funds remain available. Requests must be made prior to the event and voted on by the Board of Directors. Approved requests entitle the member to reimbursement after the event pending submission of receipts.

HISTORY

After World War II, New England veterans were returning home from the war with spinal cord injuries/dysfunctions, and quickly became involved with wheelchair sports, such as basketball, ping pong, etc. Some of these veterans were part of the first wheelchair basketball team in New England, the New England Clippers. The Clippers are mentioned in the National Wheelchair Basketball Association’s history as being one of the first wheelchair basketball teams in the country.

The Chapter’s Wheelchair Sports & Recreation Program has since won numerous PVA Sports Awards and has been involved with the promotion, development and sponsorship of a variety of wheelchair sports and recreational activities for our members and others with disabilities in New England.
SPORTS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS

PRESENT

The Chapter’s Wheelchair Sports & Recreation Program has continued to lead the way in providing opportunities for Chapter members, and others with disabilities throughout New England, to participate in a variety of activities. Some of the activities in our Sports & Recreation program are for veterans only, such as the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, New England Winter Sports Clinic for Disabled Veterans, Summer Sports Clinic for Disabled Veterans, and some fishing and shooting events, while other activities like the Bowling League and the NEPVA Bass Tail are open to members, affiliates and all others with disabilities.

In 2018 the Chapter’s Wheelchair Sports & Recreation Program included sponsorship for the following events, activities and teams.

NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

One of the most important functions of the Chapter’s Sports and Recreation Program is to provide members with the opportunity to participate in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG). Each year, the Chapter sponsors a team (NEPVA Coasters) to compete in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and our parent organization - Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA). The most important goal of the NVWG is to introduce new injuries and/or Novices to the amazing experience, health benefits, and camaraderie available through participation in wheelchair sports. Though the NVWG is sort of an introduction to wheelchair sports for many of our members who take part each year, it also provides an opportunity for veterans around the country to get together and renew old acquaintances.

The 38th National Veterans Wheelchair Games were held in Cincinnati, OH. The Chapter again sponsored 20 athletes along with nursing staff, coaches, volunteers, and family members. The competition was as hot as the weather. NEPVA Coasters took home over 70 medals, and many more times that in memories that will last a lifetime.

NEW ENGLAND WINTER AND SUMMER SPORTS CLINIC FOR DISABLED VETERANS

This year the VA Boston Healthcare System invited military service veterans with spinal cord injuries, orthopedic amputation, visual impairments, certain neurological problems and other disabilities to participate in the 20th Annual New England Winter Sports Clinic for Disabled Veterans. This event promotes rehabilitation by instructing physically challenged veterans in adaptive Alpine skiing and providing an introduction to other adaptive activities and sports. The Chapter continues to be a sponsor of the New England Winter Sports Clinic since its inception. This event is held at Mount Sunapee, in New Hampshire each year in January. In 2018, we also sponsored the 8th New England Summer Sports Clinic for Disabled Veterans, which was presented by the VA Boston Healthcare System and hosted by the Providence VA Medical Center in Coventry, Newport in collaboration with the Sail to Prevail program.
NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER BASS TRAIL

The NEPVA Bass Fishing Trail is in its 20th season and continues to be well attended. The Bass Trail consists of three one-day tournaments throughout New England. The Bass Trail event was founded and is organized by Eugene (Tiny) LaFontaine, the American Eagle Bass Anglers, and includes volunteers from the local Bass Federations, and the Nam Knights motorcycle club. There is never a charge to participate by either the angler or boat captain. In each of the events, anglers with disabilities are paired with local bass pros for a day of competitive fishing. The partners compete as a team and the teams with the largest weight of fish have a chance to win prizes.

What started as a one-day bass tournament on the Charles River in Boston has grown and expanded to include multiple one-day tournaments throughout the season. In 2018, Chapter Bass Tournaments were held on the Charles River in June, on Lake Winnipesaukee, NH in September and North Pond, Maine in October.

It is important to note that the Bass Trail assists with raising money specifically to keep it free for veterans and those with disabilities. 2018 was a good year for the NEPVA Bass Trail. At the June Event, they received over $2,760 in donations and Counselor from Newton addressed the group at the weigh in. Overall, the NEPVA Bass Trail raised over $12,000 with a generous donation from General Electric Giving Fund of $4,000.
NEPVA ROLLERS BOWLING LEAGUE

The Chapter's Bowling League is one of our longest running program, and it is a great recreational as well as competitive opportunity that many Chapter members have enjoyed participating in over the years. It is easily adaptive, which allows people with almost any physical disability to bowl from a wheelchair. Wheelchair bowlers use the same scoring system and the same lanes as bowlers who stand. Adaptive devices such as ramps, push sticks and "handle ball" can be utilized to assist bowlers with less function.

The season begins the Tuesday after Labor Day and runs 35 weeks. The Chapter bowling team bowls every Tuesday afternoon at the Westgate Bowling Lanes in Brockton, MA. These lanes are very accessible and SCI/D Bldg 8 Long Term Care members also compete on Wednesdays. The Chapter is considering the support of another AWBA Tournament in 2020.
Annual Banquet

The 71st Annual Membership Banquet was held once again at Mosely’s on the Charles in Dedham, Massachusetts. This banquet venue has been well received is only blocks away from the Chapter office and just a cross the street from the West Roxbury VAMC.

There were several awards given out that evening as well. This year’s Pierik Award recipients were Jonlyn Glenn from West Roxbury’s A2 SCI ward and Julia Fernandes from the Brockton SCI LTC facility (Bldg. 8). The Pierik Award was founded by Madeline Pierik, who retired as Chief of Nursing many years ago. The award is presented to two individuals who demonstrate dedication to spinal cord injured patients through both satisfactory attendance and exemplary performance in his/her role. The recipients are nominated and then selected chosen by their peers.

Many Thanks go to our Banquet Committee, Ms. Maureen Morrison, Denise and George Pease, Janet Kendall, and Terry and Michael Negrete for their help. The 71th would not have gone nearly as well as it did without their help.
Statement of Financial Position

Statement of Financial Position for Years Ended September 30, 2018 and 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalent</td>
<td>83,807</td>
<td>124,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>669,228</td>
<td>614,132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions Receivable, Current</td>
<td>19,342</td>
<td>19,877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Current Assets</td>
<td>5,578</td>
<td>9,473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$777,955</strong></td>
<td><strong>$768,247</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Property and Equipment</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and Equipment</td>
<td>18,088</td>
<td>18,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>(18,088)</td>
<td>(148,432)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Property and Equipment</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Long-Term Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions Receivable, Net of Current Portion</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$777,955</strong></td>
<td><strong>$783,247</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS |      |      |
| Current Liabilities |        |        |
| Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses | 44,744 | 26,460 |
| **Total Current Liabilities** | **$44,744** | **$26,460** |

| NET ASSETS |      |      |
| **Unrestricted** |    |      |
| **Total Net Assets** | **$733,211** | **$756,787** |

| **Total Liabilities and Net Assets** | **$777,955** | **$783,247** |
# Statement of Financial Activities


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</th>
<th>UNRESTRICTED</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>58,327</td>
<td>58,372</td>
<td>74,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Dues</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PVA Chapter Grant</td>
<td>154,148</td>
<td>154,148</td>
<td>158,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and Dividends</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>1,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrealized/Realized Gains (Losses) and Fees</td>
<td>19,020</td>
<td>19,020</td>
<td>2,454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sporting Activities</td>
<td>15,664</td>
<td>15,664</td>
<td>24,877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Program Revenues</td>
<td>9,788</td>
<td>9,788</td>
<td>5,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support and Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$257,402</strong></td>
<td><strong>$257,402</strong></td>
<td><strong>$268,254</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| EXPENSE                                   |               |       |       |
| Program and Services                      |               |       |       |
| Advocacy, Liaison, Service                | 73,124        | 73,124| 47,954|
| Membership                                | 19,009        | 19,009| 6,459 |
| Communications                            | 29,079        | 29,079| 37,229|
| Sports and Recreation                     | 79,506        | 9,506 | 140,442|
| **Total Program and Services**            | **$200,718**  | **$200,718** | **$232,084** |

| SUPPORTING SERVICES                       |               |       |       |
| Management and General                    | 62,295        | 62,295| 113,841|
| Fundraising                               | 17,965        | 17,965| 8,392 |
| **Total Functional Expense**              | **280,978**   | **280,978** | **354,317** |
| Loss on Disposal of Fixed Asset           | -             | -     | 28,450|
| **Total Expense**                         | **280,978**   | **280,978** | **382,767** |
| Change in Net Assets                      | ($23,576)     | ($23,576) | ($114,513) |

| Net Assets, Beginning of Period           | 756,787       | 756,787| 871,300|
| **Net Assets, End of Period**             | **$733,211**  | **$733,211** | **$756,787** |
## Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

### Part I - Summary

1. **Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities:**

   **See Schedule O**

2. **Check this box [X] if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets.**

3. **Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)**

4. **Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)**

5. **Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2017 (Part V, line 2a)**

6. **Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)**

7a. **Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12**

7b. **Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34**

### Revenue

8. **Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)**

9. **Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)**

10. **Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)**

11. **Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)**

12. **Total revenue – add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)**

### Expenses

13. **Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1-3)**

14. **Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)**

15. **Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5-10)**

16a. **Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)**

17. **Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a-11d, 11f-24e)**

18. **Total expenses. Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)**

19. **Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12**

### Net Assets of the Current and Prior Year

20. **Total assets (Part X, line 16)**

21. **Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)**

22. **Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20**

### Part II - Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

**Signature of officer:**

**Type or print name and title:**

**MICHAEL G. NEGRETE, PRESIDENT**

**Signature:**

**Date:**

**PTIN:**

**JASON F. CLAUSEN, JASON F. CLAUSEN**

**Preparer’s signature:**

**Date:**

**PTIN:**

**JASON F. CLAUSEN P.C.**

**Preparer’s address:**

**Phone no.:**

**May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (see instructions)**

**Form:**

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**For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate instructions.**

**OMB No. 1545-0047**

**Open to Public Inspection**

**Form 990**

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**NEPVA 01/24/2019 3:34 PM**

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**IRS 990 Page 24 of 24**

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**New England PVA**