



# Paralyzed Veterans of America

---

Nevada Chapter

## 2014 Annual Report



## MISSION STATEMENT

The Nevada Paralyzed Veterans of America, Inc., is a 501(c) (3) charitable organization dedicated to improving and ensuring the quality of life for veterans who have suffered spinal cord injury or dysfunction through:

Advocacy and Legislation  
Research and Development  
Barrier Free Architecture  
Sports and Recreation  
Help with VA Benefits and Claims

## OFFICERS

Daniel Kaminski	President
Lester Wood	Vice President
Kenny Rogers	Secretary
Marc Fenn	Treasurer

## BOARD MEMBERS

Roger Dauffenbach	Tom Hudson	Ron Cantagallo
-------------------	------------	----------------

## COMMITTEES & CHAIRPERSONS

Advocacy	Rogers Dauffenbach	Legislative	Roger Dauffenbach
Finance	Marc Fenn	Membership	Ann Perelman
Fund Raising	Julie Johnson	Sports	Kenny Rogers/Marc Fenn
Hospital	Dan Kaminski		

## BENEFITS OFFICE

Ian Kenner, NSO, 5460 Reno Corporate Drive. #1A-105, Reno, NV 89511, 775/321-4789

Patti Matysiak, VLO Las Vegas VAMC, 6900 N. Pecos Road, Las Vegas, NV 8908 702/791-9000 ext. 14458

## OFFICE STAFF

Julie Johnson	Executive Director
Ann Perelman	Office Manager

## NEVADA PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

704S. Jones Blvd.

Las Vegas, NV 89107

702/646-0040 Toll Free: 866/638-3837 Fax: 702/646-3712

**Website:** nevadapva.org

**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/ParalyzedVeteransofAmericaNevadaChapter

**Twitter:** Twittercom/PVANEvada

**Instagram:** Instagram.com/pvanevada

**YouTube:** www.youtube.com/PVANEvada

## From the Desk of the President

I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication to the NV PVA, together we accumulated 3,000 volunteer hours for this past year. Volunteer hours are up from last year.

Drs. Remson and Mahaney came on board this year giving us more coverage in the SCI clinic allowing us to be covered every day.

Our Wellness Program has exceeded all expectations and is going very strong. A big thanks to Jennifer Yanez for spearheading this program. Our efforts are improving the care of our members and membership is staying steady.

Our sports and recreation program has been expanding and in doing so reaching more veterans and involving more community partners.

I've been a part of this chapter since its inception and it is truly an honor serving as President. It does the heart good to see so much growth over the last three years in volunteers, expansion with sports, wellness and outreach programs.

I want to wish all of you an amazing 2015. We will continue the success of this chapter by keeping our programs strong and vital while sustaining active and engaged lives for our members.

Daniel Kaminski

Courage doesn't always roar.  
Sometimes courage is in the quiet voice  
At the end of the day saying,  
"I will try again tomorrow:

*Mary Anne Radmacher*

*"Our greatest weakness lies in  
giving up.  
The most certain way to suc-  
ceed is to always try just one  
more time."*

*Thomas Edison*

## **Purpose**

The purpose of Paralyzed Veterans of America, Nevada Chapter (NVPVA) is to help our members and their families, veterans, and all people with disabilities with accessibility issues, civil rights, VA benefits, transportation issues, and new laws to enhance the lives of people with disabilities. NVPVA also advocates for veterans and individuals suffering from spinal cord injury or disease in order to assist them in integrating into mainstream society and to open all possible avenues towards living life to its fullest.

One of the ways NVPVA accomplishes its purpose is to promote health and well-being of individuals with disabilities. Nevada PVA provides information and equipment access to potential wheelchair athletes. Hand-cycling, basketball, boating, football, sit-skiing, racquetball, rugby, swimming, tennis, track and field and weightlifting are among the many sports, recreation and wellness activities in which our members participate.

## **Administration**

The chapter's office hours are 8:00 a.m.– 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Friday. We are in compliance with all the reporting requirements as mandated by PVA's governing documents. We receive an annual audit of our financial statement and file all required documents with the IRS, state, and other entities as required.

Our Board of Directors meets monthly, and we hold an annual general membership meeting. The Nevada Chapter has two employees, Executive Director, Julie Johnson and Office Manager, Ann Perelman, who both work to ensure the chapter is successful.

## **Fundraising**

Nevada PVA is an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit, charitable organization. We receive no federal funding or federal grant support. We receive approximately 50% of our funding from National PVA and the rest through various fundraising events to help support the programs and services we provide to our members. Fundraising activities include, Grant writing, CFC campaigns, Vehicle Donation Program, United Way, MGM Foundation, and community support, etc.. We held our 2nd Annual Walk, Run and Roll and had the best turnout to date, this is becoming a great fundraiser for us.

## **Hospital Liaison**

The Chapter Service Office, Chapter staff and Chapter representatives have regular meeting with the VA staff and the Director of the medical center to discuss and address issues that require attention. We also have a representative attend quarterly VAVS meetings. We keep an active working relationship with the VA Directors and staff at both the Southern Nevada VA Medical Center and the Reno VA Medical Center. It is our goal to maintain a presence at both facilities to ensure the highest quality of care for our members and the veteran community at large.

## **SCI Clinic**

The Chapter works with the VA Medical Center staff at the Southern Nevada VA Medical Center as well as the VA Medical Center in Reno to ensure that our members are receiving the services they require. Staffing at both hospitals consists of a Physician, Nurse, Social Worker and various other therapists on staff which ensures that our members receive the best care possible. Our Wellness Program came to fruition at the Southern Nevada VA this year and has been very successful and we look forward to continuing to grow this program.

## **Advocacy/Legislation**

Our Chapter Advocacy/Legislative Director attended the PVA Advocacy and Legislation seminar in Washington, DC and met with all Nevada Congressional Representatives to outline PVA's stand on important issues. He also monitors Nevada State Legislation for any issues that may pertain to disabled veterans. The Chapter also works closely with both state and federal representatives to support legislation to benefit veterans and the disabled community at large and various members of our board attend Town Hall and Roundtable discussions as needed.

## **Service**

Our Chapter VLO works closely with our National Service Officer to obtain benefits for our members in both Northern and Southern Nevada. Our Service Officer in Las Vegas, is Enrique Chavez and Northern Nevada is covered by our VLO in conjunction with various NSO's who travel to Reno on a bi-monthly basis. Last year we obtained a total of 18 new POA's to bring the total of POA's held in 2014 to 377; total interviews conducted were 826; total dollar amount of benefits obtained \$207,530 with 23 unresolved claims still pending. Our services, which are always free of charge, and have resulted in more monetary awards as well as benefits that include adaptive equipment, auto grants, burial grants, education, insurance and others. These benefit awards can change veterans' lives immeasurably and in the process, provide them the opportunity to move forward. In addition, our efforts to serve spouses, family members, and caregivers became a renewed focus, as we work to provide comprehensive services for our veterans, and that includes the people who care for them, to maximize their independence.

## **Communication**

Nevada PVA produces a bi-monthly newsletter designed to keep members updated on current events taking place in the chapter. We also provide direct mailings of upcoming events that we invite members to participate in; we update our website weekly as needed and post on Facebook daily advising of events happening in the chapter as well as information on veterans issues that we feel our members would find pertinent. We also use Twitter and Instagram as a means of communication.

## **Membership/Volunteer Program**

Last year the Nevada Chapter had a total membership of 162; 76 service connected and 86 non-service connected. We also have 77 Associate Members who support our chapter and programs. Our membership director updates the database weekly and submits reports to National on a monthly basis.

The Nevada Chapter's dedicated group of volunteers logged in 3,000 hours for 2014. Volunteers receive Certificates of Appreciation from the Chapter as well as from our Congressional Representatives at our Annual General Membership and Awards Banquet. Jeanette Miller was once again named Volunteer of the Year for her dedication and support of our chapter. Our Volunteer Coordinator updates volunteer hours weekly and submits a report to National on a monthly basis. We are grateful to our volunteers for all the work they do, we could not do our job without them.

## **Community Involvement**

The Chapter works closely with other veterans organizations to guarantee that all veterans in our State receive the maximum support and benefits due them. Annually we participate in the Veterans Service Fair, at the State Veterans Home in Boulder City we help sponsor their Annual Olympics and Super Bowl Party. We also work closely with the City of Las Vegas Adaptive Recreation Department by sponsoring basketball, Handcycling, and tennis events; as well as work with the Paralympic Children's Program by sponsoring BBQ's throughout the year, their annual summer camp and their Christmas Party.

We also work with the City of Reno's Adaptive Recreation Department sponsoring their Annual Military Sports Camp as well as numerous other adaptive sporting events all year long.

During Public Awareness Month we sponsored an information table at the Southern Nevada VA. We held our Annual Open House during April and we sponsored an obstacle course at Better Life Mobility..

Also as part of Public Awareness Month, we sponsored an Open House at our office; members, volunteers, community leaders, and members of other veterans organizations are invited to come have a BBQ lunch and meet and greet our board and office staff. We also had an obstacle course set up at Better Life Mobility. It was a lot of fun and everyone who went through the course appreciated some of the challenges our members face every day.

### Northern Nevada

Northern Nevada continued to expand its membership as well as work with the Adaptive Recreation Departments in Reno and Sacramento to sponsor and participate in various sporting events. Our Annual Picnic and Christmas Party were both well attended and Julie Johnson, our Executive Director, Dan Kaminski, Chapter President, and Patti Matyziak, VLO once again made the trip to Reno to meet with members during our picnic. The Northern Nevada tab on the website is going strong with lots of sporting events being advertised. Hopefully, we can get more members to participate in these events.

### Sports

I am happy to report that our Nevada Chapter had a very successful 2014.

We started off the year sponsoring a BBQ for our wheelchair basketball friends at the City of Las Vegas Adaptive Sports, as well as wheelchair tennis.

In April, which is Public Awareness Month for Paralyzed Veterans of America, we had our 2nd Annual Walk, Run and Roll 5K. We had a good turnout and everyone had a great time even though it was cold and windy. This program will help further our adaptive sports programs which enhance the quality of life through health and fitness. As we have done for the past few years, we were on the Trapshoot circuit and had a good turnout.

As we've done for the past few years we sponsored various events for the Paralympic Kids, including their two week summer camp. We always have such a great time at these gatherings, this has become one of our favorite events.

We sponsored various handcycling, tennis, basketball events as well as the military sports camp in Reno.

This year was also sponsored the Yucca Basketball Team which plays in tournaments throughout the southwest as part of the adaptive recreation program through the City of Las Vegas.

Nevada PVA works to empower veterans to be more active and healthy in their daily lives by getting them involved in the many sports and recreation programs we offer and promoting new ones, highlight fitness, social networking and community involvement. Sports and recreation activities can reinforce critical values necessary for health while combating the risk of isolation, depression, and other negative outcomes of catastrophic disability. Current additional offerings are bowling, billiards, bass tour, handcycling, air rifle and air pistol and shooting sports.



“It’s kind of fun to do the impossible.”  
*Walt Disney*



# In Memoriam

*We had to say goodbye to many of our members. Their memories, however, will remain a part of us until we join them.*

Cleve Clark  
Joseph Clark  
Kent Clifford  
Richard Credit  
Diane Dickinson  
Dennis Miller  
Jack Nash  
Gary Spurlin  
Stanley Stavinski  
Doug Torney

"A hero is someone who understands the responsibility that comes with his freedom."

*Bob Dylan*



## VETERANS DAY PARADE

"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style."

*Maya Angelou*

### 2014 Donors

We want to thank all of those who donated to us this year. Without them, we could not support some of the programs we offer to our members.

Bronze Donor \$25 or more  
Silver Donor \$50 or more  
Gold Donor \$100 or more

Titanium Donor \$250 or more  
Platinum Donor \$500 or more

**Bronze Donors**  
Douglas Nagoshi  
Mr. & Mrs. MacElrath  
Lori Kincer

**Silver Donors**  
Mr. Edward Giesecking

**Gold Donor**  
Mr. & Mrs. Washington  
Carma Richens  
Mr. & Mrs. Dibble  
Mary Heine  
Mr. & Mrs. Jarrat  
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Strang  
Mr. & Mrs. Howe

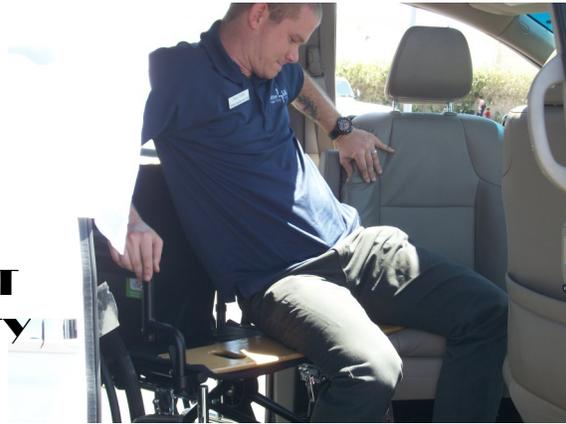
**Platinum Donors**  
Lee O'Brien  
United Way of So. NV  
Dee for Dentist  
Mss. Carmen Castro  
C & K Designs  
Better Life Mobility

# PUBLIC AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES

## Open House



## OB STACLE COURSE AT BETTER LIFE MOBILITY



## INFORMATION TABLE AT VA



## **BOWLING TOURNAMENT**



## **FISHING ON LAKE MEAD**



## **WHEELCHAIR TENNIS TOURNAMENT**





## **Paralympic Kids Summer Camp BBQ**

## **General Membership Meeting**





**BARRETT JACKSON  
AUCTION**

**DIVERSITY DAY**



**TOYS FOR TOTS GOLF  
TOURNAMENT**

**YUCCA BASKETBALL  
TEAM**



## NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

“If my mind can conceive it, and my heart  
can believe it-then I can achieve it.”

*Muhammad Ali*



## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

## DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY



**Nevada Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Statement of Financial Position  
Year Ended December 31, 2014**

**ASSETS:**

**Current Assets:**

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 674,514
Cash and cash equivalents restricted	12,295
Certificates of deposit	146,896
Prepaid Expenses	<u>3,124</u>
Total Current Assets	836,829

**Property and Equipment, net** 398,862

**Other Assets:**

Certificates of deposit	175,080
Investments	<u>162,399</u>
Total other assets	337,479
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,573,170</u></b>

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

**Current Liabilities:**

Accrued expenses	\$ 6,728
Total current liabilities	<u>6,728</u>

**Net Assets:**

Unrestricted:	
Undesignated	1,511,837
Board designated	<u>42,310</u>
	1,554,147
Temporarily restricted	<u>12,295</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,566,442</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,573,170</u></b>

**Nevada Paralyzed Veterans of America**  
**Statement of Activities**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2014**

**Unrestricted Net Assets:**

Unrestricted revenue and other support	
PVA grant	\$ 167,729
Fundraising	40,271
Contributions	72,304
Interest income	7,549
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>376</u>
	<u>288,229</u>

Expenses:

Program services	256,969
Supporting services:	
Management and general	28,529
Fundraising	<u>4,049</u>
	289,546

Other expense:

Net realized and unrealized loss on investments	<u>1,835</u>
	<u>291,381</u>
Decrease in unrestricted net assets	<u>( 3,152)</u>

**Temporarily Restricted Net Assets**

Net assets released from donor restrictions	<u>( 376)</u>
Decrease in temporarily restricted net assets	<u>(376)</u>

**Decrease in Net Assets**

( 3,528)

**Net Assets, Beginning of Year**

1,569,970

**Net Assets, End of Year**

\$ 1,566,442

**Nevada Paralyzed Veterans of America**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2014**

**Cash Flows from Operating Activities**

Decrease in net assets	\$ ( 3,528)
Adjustments to reconcile decrease in net assets To net cash used in operating activities:	
Depreciation	24,295
Net realized and unrealized loss on investments	1,835
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:	
(Increase) decrease in interest receivable	280
(Increase) decrease in prepaid expenses	2,168
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	(3,120)
Increase (decrease) in accrued expenses	<u>3,299</u>
Net cash used in operating activities	25,229

**Cash Flows from Investing Activities**

Net change in certificates of deposit	(369)
Purchase of investments	<u>(12,782)</u>
Net cash use in investing activities	<u>(13,151)</u>

**Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents** 12,078

**Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of Year** 674,731

**Cash and Cash Equivalents, End of Year** \$ 686,809

**Cash and cash equivalents, unrestricted** \$ 674,514

**Cash ad cash equivalents, restricted** 12,295

\$ 686,809

**Nevada Paralyzed Veterans of America**  
**704 S. Jones Blvd.**  
**Las Vegas, NV 89107**  
**702) 646-0040**  
**Fax: (702) 646-3712**  
**Toll Free: 1-866-638-3837**  
**www.nevadapva.org**

**Non-Profit Org.**  
**U.S. Postage**  
**Paid**  
**Las Vegas, NV**  
**Permit #333**

**Or Current Resident**



# **DONATE YOUR VEHICLE**

TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORTED US  
THE **NEVADA PARALYZED VETERANS** OF AMERICA

**HIGHER TAX DEDUCTION**  
**ASK US WHY! (702) 545-8044**

**Same Day Donation Pick Up! Free Towing!**

- We turn your plates into the DMV for you
- We provide IRS & DMV forms as needed
- We take vehicles - running or not • Funds support local Vets
- We help with lost or problem titles • Call for a Free Deduction Estimate
- We Pickup Cars, Trucks, RV's, Motorcycles, Boats, Airplanes & Construction Equipment



**Visit us at [www.npvaauto.com](http://www.npvaauto.com)**

Some Restrictions Apply

