

# Paralyzed Veterans of America



**Nevada Chapter**



Annual Report 2011

# 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 disease through:

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

## OFFICERS

Michael Stern	President
Daniel Kaminski	Vice President
Stanley Stavinski	Treasurer
Lester Wood	Secretary

## BOARD MEMBERS

Roger Dauffenbach	Kenneth Rogers	Tom Hudson
Marc Fenn	Tx Vogler	

## COMMITTEES & CHAIRPERSONS

Advocacy	Tx Vogler	Legislative	Michael Stern
Finance	Stanley Stavinski	Membership	Ann Perelman
Fund Raising	Julie Johnson	Sports Director	Marc Fenn
Hospital	Dan Kaminski		

## NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER/SENIOR BENEFITS ADVOCATE:

4800 Alpine Place, Suite 13  
Las Vegas, NV 89107  
702/731-9722  
Toll Free: 1/800/795-3583

## OFFICE STAFF

Julie Fabian-Johnson Executive Director  
Ann Perelman Office Manager/Administrative Assistant

## NEVADA PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

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## **President's Message**

*by Michael C. Stern*

The Nevada Chapter had another great year. We were selected as the Outstanding Chapter by National PVA and we won the Richard Fuller Award for Outstanding Achievement in Government Relations, along with our volunteer, John Rumfield winning the Harry A. Scheikert Jr. Disability Award.

We worked with the VFW, DAV, Catholic War Veterans, American Legion and the Jewish War Veterans to sponsor a Homeless Veteran's Stand Down. The hospital director, Mr. John Bright, had the Assistant Secretary of the Veterans Administration give a great speech at the start of the Stand Down. We also had representatives from Senator Reid's office, Congressman Heck's office and Congresswoman Berkley's office. We handed out hygiene kits to over 400 homeless veterans.

We held BBQ's and Ice Cream Socials for the City of Las Vegas Paralympic kids. It was fantastic to watch them compete in their various sporting events.

We are still working with getting members from Reno, Nevada, we have two members on the Board of Directors and travel up there several times a year.

Our Trap and Pistol Shoot was a great success, we are using the new Clark County Shooting Range and everyone seems to like it and has a good time. We had a fishing trip at Lake Mead. We held our Annual BBQ at Floyd Lamb State Park and everyone had a great time, we had the best ribs ever! We had a Pizza Party at the State Veterans Home and they actually consumed 18 large pizzas, we all had a wonderful time. We worked both San Geronimo Feasts and raised some money, as well as raising money through the Pappas Motorsports car show, which though it rained, was a great success.

During Public Awareness Month, John Rumfield got us on the radio for 30 minutes once a week. Because of this we got a donation of 120 acres with a well in Wells, Nevada. I have not been to the site but hear that it is beautiful.

Our Car Donation Program struggled with the economy but is still a viable program for us.

We held our Annual General Membership and Awards Banquet at the Las Vegas County Club (an old Rat Pack hang out) for the first time and it was great! We had good attendance of members, spouses and volunteers, along with representatives from our Congressional and Senatorial representatives. Congresswoman Berkley gave all members and volunteers Congressional Recognition Certificates.

## **Membership Report**

*As of December 31, 2011*

Service Connected	80	Associate Members	82
Non Service Connected	91	Volunteers	48
Total Membership	171		

The Annual General Membership Meeting and Awards Banquet was held on February 14, 2011 at the Las Vegas County Club.

## **Legislative Report**

*by Michael C. Stern*

Last year we worked with various Home Owner Associations (HOA) to get their CC&R's changed to waive certain requirements to make them more ADA friendly. They either changed or waived the provisions complying with ADA requirements. Some of these requirements were, if a person had a manual or power chair, if the home caught fire and the CCR's stated that there can be no concrete paving along the side of the houses. This prevents egress through the back yard for people in chairs. Most HOA's have only one sidewalk on the street side and this makes it difficult for homeowners to get to their mail boxes. We found out that this is not the Post Office's responsibility, but that of the HOA.

We worked with various gun stores that were having Concealed Weapons Training to change their format for those Quads that cannot hold a pistol in one hand and then use the other. The State Law read that you must be able to shoot using either hand, but they finally agreed to change the law and now a Quad can use the hand of their choice. We also worked with the news media regarding persons in wheelchairs use of concealed firearms for protection.

We attended a County Legislative meeting regarding trying to get a reduction in costs for disabled veterans vehicle plates, as Nevada charges the same price as vanity plates. Because of budget concerns, this was taken off the table.

We participated in a teleconference with our State Legislative Committee (Judicial Committee) in Carson City, Nevada regarding bill AB223. This bill provides protection for Federal Benefit recipients from the attachment of the Department of Treasury Funds streamlining the process for those already exempt funds. We did quite a bit of research on both service connected and non-service connected veterans and checked with every veterans organization in Nevada. Veterans were closing their bank accounts and receiving their benefit checks at home, when they cash the checks, this creates a big problem with robberies and burglary along with injuries to the recipients of the checks. This law was passed two years ago but the Governor vetoed it. This year the bill was signed by the Governor.

We worked on the Veterans's Administration voucher system which considers Aide and Attendant as part of the income and they take out a percentage of it, as if it were income. We brought this to the attention of Congresswoman Shelley Berkley and Senator Harry Reid and they said they would look into it.

### **2011 Donors**

Platinum Donor	\$500 or more	Silver Donor	\$50 or more
Titanium Donor	\$250 or more	Bronze Donor	\$25 or more
Gold Donor	\$100 or more		

#### **Platinum Donors**

Do Right Foundation  
Lee O'Brien

#### **Titanium Donors**

Zachary White  
The Gun Store  
Wayne Sheridan  
Michael P. Cyr

#### **Gold Donors**

Marlene Santako  
Rena M. Pregon  
Betty Goedhart  
Ted Kamo

#### **Silver Donors**

Mr. & Mrs. Speckings  
Tatiana L. Solomon

#### **Bronze Donors**

Douglas Ngoski  
Robert Zgonc  
Manny Borjas  
Ahn Van Ees

## **Advocacy Report**

*by Tx Vogler*

This past year we worked with some of the local casinos as well as some of the small stores in an attempt to bring them up to ADA standard. Some of the issues we worked on with them were adding parking spaces (one casino added ten new handicap spots including three for van access; also inappropriate parking spaces, lack of cross walks and excessive curb blocking wheelchair access. I also contacted a local TV station and newspaper suggesting they have articles and features on the importance of wheelchair access in the community and the importance of meeting and enforcing ADA laws.

## **Northern Nevada News**

*by Tom Hudson*

This past year we continued to work on expanding our membership, as well as working with local agencies in an attempt to get more of our northern Nevada members involved in various local sports programs and outings. Also worked on expanding information on the northern Nevada tab on the Nevada PVA website as well as establishing a northern Nevada email mail account which allows members to communicate readily with their northern Nevada BOD representatives.



## **Benefits and Liaison**

*by Filippi P. Micocci*

*Senior National Service Officer*

Over the past year, the Nevada PVA National Service Office has been in contact with 1,893 veterans and family members, of which 1,111 were member or member eligible.

The office was active filing claims for veterans and their family members totaling 358 new issues over the past year. Although many claims are still pending, a total of \$2,616,614 in retroactive dollars was won for our clients.

Due to the efforts of the service office and the outreach of the Chapter, a total of 79 new Power of Attorney (POA) clients were added to the roster this past year. Continued efforts are being conducted to reach our new veterans coming out of the service today and also to reach the veterans who have been forgotten or neglected by the VA. We will continue to work closely with the Chapter in their outreach events and help spread the word of the service we provide to veterans and their families.

## **Sports Report**

Once again we joined the PVA Trap Shoot Circuit and hosted the Nevada PVA Trap Shoot. We had a good turnout for the event and the weather was great.

We once again invited our members to come out for our Annual Fishing Trip on Lake Mead. We rented several boats to accommodate everyone and, even though, no fish were caught this year, everyone enjoyed the camaraderie and a day in the sun relaxing.

This year we started sponsoring events for the Paralympic Kids through the City of Las Vegas Adaptive Recreation Department. This quickly became one of our favorite events to sponsor. The kids are so much fun and are so grateful for all we do for them. We've sponsored several BBQ's for them, as well as Ice Cream Socials and at the end of the year we handed out stockings at their Annual Christmas Party.

Once again some of our members participated in the Golden Age Games as well as the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.

Pappas Motorsports once again held a fundraiser for us at one of their car shows, and, as always, we participated in the San Geronimo Feast, which is our major yearly fundraising event.

As always, we sponsored a Pizza Party at the State Veterans Home in Boulder which is always a lot of fun. We all enjoy meeting and visiting with the veterans.

This year we also sponsored quite a few events in Reno through their Adaptive Recreation Department, events such as wheelchair basketball, hand cycling, military sports camp and other assorted sporting events.

We ended the year with our Annual Bowling Tournament which was a great success, as always. We look forward to participating in these and other events in 2012.

# Nevada Paralyzed Veterans of America

## Statement of Activities

December 31, 2011 & 2010

	2011			2010		
		Temporarily			Temporarily	
	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Revenue and Support:						
Contributions	\$ 78,788		\$ 78,788	\$634,043		\$634,043
PVA Grant	206,956		206,956	215,971		215,971
Special Events	16,492		16,492	33,034	2,000	35,034
Investment Income	3,298		3,298	3,065		3,065
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Total Revenue and Support	<u>305,534</u>		<u>305,534</u>	<u>886,113</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>888,113</u>
Program Services:						
Member Benefits	209,470	500	209,970	183,197		183,197
Public Affairs	<u>11,214</u>		<u>11,214</u>	<u>9,705</u>		<u>9,705</u>
Total Program Services	<u>220,684</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>221,184</u>	<u>192,902</u>		<u>192,902</u>
Support Services:						
General and Administrative	57,579		57,579	63,282		63,282
Fundraising	<u>4,977</u>		<u>4,977</u>	<u>5,171</u>		<u>5,171</u>
Total Support Services	<u>62,556</u>		<u>62,556</u>	<u>68,453</u>		<u>68,453</u>
Total Expenses	<u>283,240</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>283,740</u>	<u>261,355</u>		<u>261,355</u>
Changes in Net Assets	22,294	(500)	21,794	624,758	2,000	626,758
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(275)		(275)			
Net Assets Beginning of Year	<u>1,628,722</u>	<u>4,809</u>	<u>1,633,531</u>	<u>1,003,964</u>	<u>2,809</u>	<u>1,006,773</u>
Net Assets End of Year	<u>\$1,650,741</u>	<u>\$4,309</u>	<u>\$1,655,050</u>	<u>\$1,628,722</u>	<u>\$4,809</u>	<u>\$1,633,531</u>

**Nevada Paralyzed Veterans of America**

**Statement of Financial Position**

**December 31, 2011 & 2010**

**Assets:**

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Cash and equivalents (includes Temporarily Restricted)	\$1,063,495	\$1,140,881
Investments	99,725	
Prepaid insurance	1,991	2,098
Vehicles	2,000	
Office equipment	4,785	4,507
Furniture & Fixtures	771	771
Building and improvements	456,136	451,836
Land	95,231	95,231
Accumulated depreciation	(68,266)	(52,684)
 Total Assets	 \$1,655,868	 \$1,642,640

**Liabilities and Net Assets:**

Accrued expenses	<u>\$818</u>	<u>\$9,109</u>
 Total liabilities	 <u>818</u>	 <u>9,109</u>
 Net Assets:		
Unrestricted:		
Operating	1,589,947	1,494,927
Board Designated	<u>60,794</u>	<u>133,795</u>
	<u>1,650,741</u>	<u>1,628,722</u>
Temporarily restricted	<u>4,309</u>	<u>4,809</u>
 Total Net Assets	 <u>1,655,050</u>	 <u>1,633,531</u>
 Total Liabilities and Net Assets	 <u>\$1,655,868</u>	 <u>\$1,642,640</u>



**Nevada Paralyzed Veterans of America**

**Statement of Cash Flows**

**December 31, 2011 & 2010**

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Change in net assets	\$ 21,519	\$626,758
Adjustments to reconcile changes in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Unrealized (gain) loss on investments	275	
Depreciation	15,582	15,717
Changes in assets & liabilities:		
Prepaid expenses	107	
Accrued expenses	<u>(8,291)</u>	6,427
Net cash from operating activities	<u>29,192</u>	<u>648,902</u>
Cash Flow from Investing Activities		
Purchase of investments	<u>(100,000)</u>	
Net cash from investing activities	<u>(100,000)</u>	
Cash Flows from Financing Activities		
Purchase of property and equipment	<u>(6,578)</u>	
Net cash from financing activities	<u>(6,578)</u>	
Net change in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(77,386)	648,902
Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of Year	<u>1,140,881</u>	<u>491,979</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents, End of Year	<u>\$1,063,495</u>	<u>\$1,140,881</u>