

Gateway Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America

A member Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America



Annual Report 2015-2016 21st Annual Jack Buck/Gateway PVA Golf Tournament



“Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury or Disease, Living Life to the Fullest”

Annual Report

July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016

Gateway Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America

Board of Directors

- **President**

Stanley D. Brown

- **Vice President**

Rose M. Ganz

- **Treasurer**

Dennis L. Durrwachter

- **Secretary**

Steve M. Birkemeier

Doug Barnes

Robert Huskey, PhD

Scott Richards

Chad Buder

Ruth Kult

Matt Schneider

James Holland, PhD

Mike Norris

Steve McIntosh

Appointments

VAVS Representative - Jefferson Barracks

Rose Ganz

Membership Officer

Chris Blanchard

Legislative Director

Stanley Brown

Sports Director

Mike Norris

National Director

Stanley Brown

Hospital Liaison - St. Louis (JB)

Scott Richards

Hospital Liaison - St. Louis (JC)

Stanley Brown



President's Message

Stanley D. Brown

Welcome to the FY 2015-2016 Annual Report of the Gateway Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America. We were chartered in Missouri in 1976 and are one of 34 Chapters nationally. Fiscal Year 2016 was extremely successful. Our fiscal year successes include the fact that we again received an A+ grade from the St. Louis Better Business Bureau and earned Honor Roll Charity status in meeting all of their governance and financial performance requirements. We also have a Platinum (highest) Seal from Guidestar. Out of 34 PVA Chapters nationwide, we were named "Most Outstanding Chapter" for 2015 and this year for 2016. In addition, we received PVA's President's Award for the most outstanding new member program. We coordinated with St. Louis University Law School to conduct free legal clinics for our members twice a year so far.

We nominated our very own SCI/D physician, Dr. Jai Park, and she received the 2016 *Speedy Award* for significant contributions to improve the lives of America's paralyzed veterans. (photo on back cover)



As indicated by our latest independent audit on the last pages of this report, 86% of our expenditures went to programs! I am proud of that program expense ratio. Out of every dollar we spend, 86 cents goes to members and their programs. Our tax filing (Federal Form 990) can be found on Guidestar.com. Our Chapter remained a 501(c)(3) nonprofit veterans organization serving honorably discharged veterans of the United States Armed Forces who have sustained a spinal cord injury or disease. We receive no federal subsidy. We are governed by a 13-member volunteer Board of veterans. The vision statement of the Gateway Chapter is "*Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury or Disease Living Life to the Fullest.*"

For the twelfth year in a row, we finished the year with a positive cash flow. In fiscal year 2016 we again held our biggest fundraiser, our charity golf tournament, which is made possible by our volunteer golf committee members and their friends in the community. Some of the programs that benefit from the fundraiser include: free bus transportation for members, holiday meals and monthly catered luncheons to the Spinal Cord Injury Unit hospitalized patients at Jefferson Barracks, housing renovation grants for members, sports/recreation travel for members, grants for accessible van modifications, and cosponsoring our fourth outdoor camp. In FY 15-16, we provided \$63,626 in home modification grants, \$33,579 in generators for members, \$8,706 in hand controls for members to drive their accessible vehicles, and \$65,000 to four members for purchasing accessible vehicles. In this fiscal year we also spent \$38,325 for members to attend wheelchair sporting events and recreation.

Most importantly, this year our Board of Directors remained vigilant in monitoring and improving the care members received at the St. Louis VA medical facilities. Improving this care, continues to be one of our primary missions. There is now a six bed acute care unit at John Cochran. Nursing shortages at the St. Louis VA, especially both SCI/D units remain a huge problem. The same problem exists throughout the VA. We continue to bring forth the issue with St. Louis VA management. We, in addition to PVA Service Officers, monitor patient care at the Unit. The renovation of the 32 inpatient beds in Building 52 at Jefferson Barracks continues to expand from one wing to two wings on the ground floor. Family members of our inpatients continue to stay at the Fisher House which was opened at Jefferson Barracks in 2010 and is within walking distance of the existing Spinal Cord Injury Unit. Our Gateway Chapter gave \$10,000 for the project.

There are a plethora of charities today and numerous new "veterans" charities. Gateway continues to be an excellent steward of the money we receive and are proud of the Better Business Bureau "Wise Giving Guide" approval and A+ grade we have achieved. We were also the recipient of PVA's "Most Outstanding Chapter" award for both 2015 and 2016.

Your support and interest are crucial. We always need volunteers for special functions at Jefferson Barracks or within our office. Donations are, of course, always accepted and tax-deductible. Please call with any questions on our local line 314-427-0393 or toll-free 1-800-426-4058.

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GATEWAY CHAPTER PVA PROGRAMS

ADMINISTRATION

The Chapter office is located at 1311 Lindbergh Plaza Center, St. Louis, Missouri, a St. Louis County municipality. The space in our office building is extremely accessible and we are able to accommodate many members at our Board meetings. The Chapter office was overseen by Mr. Chris Blanchard, who has been with us since January 2016 as the Executive Director of the Chapter. His duties include the day-to-day administration and management of the building, all programs, as well as supervising Gateway's full-time and part-time staff. Mr. Blanchard was assisted by our full-time Administrative Assistant, Amber Lee who has been with our Chapter since August 2015.

SERVICE

Our National Service Officer (NSO) staff had 4,016 total contacts for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. There were 3,214 member or member-eligible targeted contacts of the 4,016 total. Staff assisted in eligible veterans receiving \$6,097,336 total awards with \$5,535,329 for target clients in benefit claims. The Gateway members were served in a very professional manner by PVA Senior Benefits Advocate, Rodney Harris, whose office is at the Jefferson Barracks Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Unit, and Senior Benefits Advocate, Fred Bradley, whose office is located on 18th Street in downtown St. Louis. Fred was assisted by NSO II, Alan Knabe and Sr. Secretary, Susan White. NSO II, Brent Follas is located at the Kansas City VAMC office, and was assisted by Sr. Secretary Rebecca Warchola.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Gateway Gazette is our bi-monthly newsletter. Our Executive Director and Administrative Assistant accomplish all functions in the creation, publication, and mailing of the newsletters. We mail out over 800 newsletters to members, associate members, and volunteers, as well as email newsletters to those who prefer that method of receipt. Newsletters are also personally distributed to hospital inpatients and VA staff. The newsletter is an important document for our members and supporters, keeping everyone apprised of the ongoing good work our Chapter does. Our members are encouraged to contribute articles to the *Gazette* on a regular basis. The Gateway Chapter PVA maintains a website at www.gatewaypva.org, with helpful links and membership forms, prior newsletters, a photo gallery, and a calendar of upcoming events, just to name a few of its benefits. Our Chapter also has a Facebook page where our "fans" can see pictures of our events and keep up with what we are planning next.

MEMBERSHIP

As of January 2016, Chris Blanchard served as the official membership officer for the Chapter. At our fiscal year end on June 30, 2016, we had 672 total members. Of those 672 members, 233 were service connected and 439 were non-service connected. Our President, Executive Director, Administrative Assistant and Transportation Drivers all work hard to serve and increase our membership. An accurate membership database requires constant vigilance, keeping track of contact information for new and current members, and accounting for deceased members and those who transfer to other Chapters. Membership applications are offered to member-eligible veterans at each monthly Jefferson Barracks SCI Unit luncheon that Gateway sponsors. Membership meetings are held after Gateway-sponsored luncheons on a quarterly basis. These meetings give our members the opportunity to discuss issues and learn about the many facets of their Chapter. Consequently, membership meetings are scheduled on clinic days at the SCI Center to give the greatest number of our members a chance to participate. In addition to meeting in St. Louis, the Chapter President drives to Kansas City for an annual membership forum at the KC VAMC. This effort affords our distant members an open forum to ask questions and make suggestions, all while partaking in a free lunch hosted by the Gateway Chapter. The Chapter also provides, free of charge, an annual membership picnic for our members and local SCI patients at area parks - complete with BBQ, sides, beverages, fun and games.

"Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury or Disease, Living Life to the Fullest"

In an effort to increase our membership involvement, we fund “nights out” at restaurants and entertainment events for members who are active in or on behalf of the Gateway Chapter. In 2015-2016, the Chapter gave several free Rams (2015) and Chiefs football and Cardinals and Royals baseball tickets, to our members, both inpatients and outpatients. To also increase membership, the Gateway members, peer support counselors, and St. Louis PVA service officers regularly visit area rehabilitation centers to find eligible members.

VOLUNTEERS

The bulk of the Chapter’s volunteers help out at the Jefferson Barracks VA Medical Center. Our volunteers assist with our holiday activities and meals, monthly membership luncheons, and recreation and crafts programs. The Chapter provides diet drinks and snacks for distribution to the hospitalized patients in the Jefferson Barracks SCI Unit five days per week by our volunteers. The same service has been made available to patients at the new six-bed acute care SCI/D unit at John Cochran. We also have volunteers who assist with our trap shoot, annual golf tournament, and our annual membership picnic. Gateway Board members are active volunteers in the St. Louis VA Medical Center services. Rose Ganz, Gateway Vice President, serves as Gateway PVA liaison for Volunteer Services. Rose serves on several VA patient councils, as well.

The Gateway Chapter PVA would like to thank all of our volunteers, without whom we would not have been able to provide the high level of service that we achieve for our members each year. We look forward to another successful year.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS/ADVOCACY

Gateway PVA’s Government Relations/Advocacy program is focused on several areas of concern to our members, in addition to veterans in general, and individuals with disabilities nationwide. The Government Relations Director (GRD) position was vacated December 2012. Since that vacancy, Gateway’s President, the Executive Director, and volunteer Board Members, have been fulfilling the GRD/Advocacy duties. Representing our Chapter at local, state, and national levels, the Government Relations (GR) program advocates for PVA membership, as well as the disabled community, in the areas of healthcare, VA benefits, civil rights and accessibility, and stays in tune with relevant legislative affairs. In March 2016, Gateway’s President joined other Chapter representatives in the PVA Advocacy/Legislation Week training and visits to legislators. In addition to the perennial funding issues, Gateway focused on amending the Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) to improve air travel for the disabled.

The Chapter continues its vehicle and home modification grant program. We provide funding grants up to \$10,000 to make members’ homes accessible, as well as provide funds (approximately \$1,000) for members to have hand controls installed in their vehicles, which enables them to drive independently. Finally, we added assistance (\$5,500) with home generators. Any pertinent news regarding advocacy, legislation, and members’ benefits is included in the monthly Board of Directors GRD report, the quarterly membership meetings, and in the Chapter’s bi-monthly newsletter, the *Gateway Gazette*. As always, it is of the utmost importance that the GR/Advocacy program maintains a strong emphasis on serving our members. Gateway President, Stanley Brown, serves on the St. Louis County Commission on Disabilities. The Commission is represented by leaders from the various St. Louis disability agencies and foundations. This past fiscal year there was a focus on universal design criteria for all new housing construction.

The River/City Arch project was another area where President Brown was lending his accessibility experience to architects, urban planners, and the U.S. Park Service. President Brown sits on a disability consulting panel for the Federal plans to renovate and make more accessible the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial project (the Gateway Arch). These plans include direct pedestrian access to expanded Arch grounds. In addition, President Brown sits on an advisory panel for renovating the downtown Soldiers Memorial. PVA Architecture has also become involved in the project, which includes not only ensuring accessible entrances but accessible exhibit space.

FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT

In September 2016, the Chapter held our 21st Annual Jack Buck/Gateway PVA Golf Tournament. Even in the economic recession, our tournament was extremely successful thanks to the volunteer efforts of the Pattonville Firefighters, with special assistance from Mark Woolbright, Rodney Bland, and Judi Bernardon. Bob Rives and Cindy Howell from Professional Equities, as well as longtime friends Fred & Michelle Waelter and their son, Devin. We also received great support from Bob Soutier and Jack Martorelli, as well as their organized labor contacts. Our auctioneer Wally Iman, as well as many others who made this a great tournament. We owe a special thanks to Anheuser Busch, Dr. Jai Park and Foam Products Corporation, for their \$2,500 Silver Sponsorships. Lastly, a very special thank you to Patrick Sly and Emerson, who again facilitated our largest single golf tournament contribution as a Double Diamond Sponsor.

Despite the continued poor economic conditions, fiscal year 2015-2016 was a very good year for us. The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association again donated a very generous amount to us. The Annual Kuk Sool Won demonstration held at the St. Charles High School and sponsored by the Kuk Sool Won St. Louis Martial Arts & Physical Fitness Group donated over \$4,000. The founder of this martial arts group, Master Harvey, has been a longtime supporter of our Gateway Chapter and we are extremely grateful for their continued support and for inclusion as a beneficiary of their fundraising events. To our great surprise, we also received portions of an estate from a Florida resident we did not know. She selected us from our website and charity ratings to receive a \$25,000 estate distribution along with other worthwhile charities. We also received a \$25,000 Express Scripts, and \$1,000 from both Ladue News and South Western Electric Co-op in Illinois.

SPORTS & RECREATION

The Gateway Chapter continued providing recreational opportunities to our members. Board member Mike Norris was our Sports Director for most of the year. We spent \$38,325 on sports and recreation events for this fiscal year. Several members attended the 35th National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Dallas, Texas, and the Winter Sports Clinic held annually in Snowmass, Colorado. Our Chapter continued the program of sponsoring “nights out” for members to attend movies, dinners, and sporting events by redeeming their participation points. In May 2016 our Chapter co-sponsored our annual local wheelchair games at the Jefferson Barracks VAMC. Plus, in September of 2016 the 4th Annual YMCA Trout Lodge outing in Southeast Missouri, was successful and has been extremely popular in the past and appears to be growing in numbers. This particular outdoor recreation event includes overnight lodging and daytime activities such as kayaking, archery, trap and skeet shooting, boating, and fishing. Gateway paid full funding for first time attendees and their attendants and paid full funding for members who had earned sufficient participation points.

All of the aforementioned types of sports and recreation events provide a form a therapy, give a sense of ability and creates optimism for our members and can often be the springboard that helps them realize the vision of our Chapter - “living life to the fullest.” In addition, our Chapter sponsors an annual trap shoot and provides food, beverages and ammo for our veterans, as well as transportation for free so they can attend that and many other events like our free annual membership BBQ/picnic.



“Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury or Disease, Living Life to the Fullest”

TRANSPORTATION

The Gateway Chapter PVA transportation program is overseen by the President and the Executive Director. Our bus can transport five veterans in wheelchairs and four individuals in seats. The 2011 bus has high mileage and consequently, frequent maintenance issues, so we'll be looking at getting a new one next year.

Our two part-time drivers are available five days per week and take the passengers to clinic appointments, appointments for therapy, grocery stores, banks and other events / activities such as our annual membership picnic, ball games, movies, and the St. Louis Veteran's Day Parade, which is always held in downtown St. Louis. Many area members without other means of transportation benefit from this program.

The Chapter continues to receive a transportation grant from the State of Missouri to help defray a small portion of the annual gasoline costs associated with running the bus. Other funding for this program comes from the monthly grant from our National PVA office, our fundraising events, annual golf tournament, and generous donors who donate gas cards. The cost of gas for our bus continues to be a major expense, especially since the bus gets so few miles per gallon. However, Gateway is determined to provide this service because it is, in many cases, the only way some of our members, especially those in nursing homes, get the opportunity to get out of their environment.

PATIENT SERVICES/LIAISON

The Gateway Chapter is fortunate to have had two (but needed more) Hospital Liaisons during FY 2015-2016 to advocate for our members' healthcare. Board member, Scott Richards is our local Jefferson Barracks VA Hospital Liaison Officer and chairman of the Chapter Hospital Committee. Both Scott and President Brown (John Cochran VA Hospital Liaison) successfully completed the National PVA training requisites for "certification" as Hospital Liaison Officers. They, and other Board members, visit spinal cord patients who are receiving care at the John Cochran Hospital and the Jefferson Barracks SCI Unit in St. Louis. The Hospital Committee meets with St. Louis VA staff, doctors, and PVA service officers, to stay abreast of all issues pertaining to the healthcare of our members and other SCI/D veterans who receive care at the St. Louis area VA hospitals.

The Gateway Chapter members also remain active in the SCI Peer Support Program, whereby veteran members who have lived with spinal cord injuries/diseases meet with and provide guidance to the newly injured or diagnosed veterans. This program is invaluable in the rehabilitation of the newly injured and provides credibility to the statement, "I know what you're going through." Two Gateway Board members serve on the governing council of the St. Louis VA Spinal Cord Injury Peer Support Program. In addition, our Chapter provides the popular "Yes You Can" guide to self-care booklets to the newly injured SCI patients at the Jefferson Barracks Spinal Cord Injury Unit, phone cards, monthly catered luncheons, and canteen coupon books. Any assistance or resource we can offer which helps our members "live life to the fullest" is a "step" in the right direction.



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GATEWAY CHAPTER OF THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS OF JUNE 30, 2016 AND JUNE 30, 2015

<u>CURRENT ASSETS:</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Cash	\$ 64,469	\$ 117,291
Investment	<u>994,069</u>	<u>939,240</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>1,058,538</u>	<u>1,056,531</u>
<u>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:</u>		
Building and improvement	752,881	752,881
Furniture and Equipment	<u>134,223</u>	<u>134,223</u>
	887,104	887,104
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>245,937</u>	<u>227,007</u>
Net Property and Equipment	<u>641,167</u>	<u>660,097</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$1,699,705</u>	<u>\$1,716,628</u>
<u>LIABILITIES:</u>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 4,155	\$ 22,549
Accrued Leave	3,108	4,600
Deposits	<u>-0-</u>	<u>6,365</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>7,263</u>	<u>33,514</u>
<u>NET ASSETS:</u>		
Unrestricted	<u>1,692,442</u>	<u>1,683,114</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$1,699,705</u>	<u>\$1,716,628</u>

GATEWAY CHAPTER OF THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS:

SUPPORT AND REVENUE:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Special Events	\$ 126,018	\$ 110,720
Contributions	135,702	69,876
Investment Income	28,325	18,153
Reimbursements	713	660
PVA Grant	158,089	155,000
Grants	2,567	15,772
Miscellaneous Income	3,470	9,203
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investment	(351)	(8,830)
Rental revenue	55,506	81,036
Rental expenses	(59,729)	(45,951)
Net Rental Revenue	(4,223)	35,085
Realized Gain (Loss) on Investment	(2,069)	15,999
Total Support and Revenue	<u>448,241</u>	<u>421,638</u>

EXPENSES:

Program Services	<u>378,713</u>	<u>299,982</u>
Support Services:		
General & Administration	22,103	12,051
Fund Raising	38,097	20,466
Total Support Services	<u>60,200</u>	<u>32,517</u>
Total Expenses	<u>438,913</u>	<u>332,499</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted Net Assets	9,328	89,139
Unrestricted Net Assets, Beginning of Year	<u>1,683,114</u>	<u>1,593,975</u>
Unrestricted Net Assets, End of Year	<u>\$1,692,442</u>	<u>\$1,683,114</u>



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Gateway Chapter

1311 Lindbergh Plaza Center
St. Louis, MO 63132

Current Resident or



“Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury or Disease, Living Life to the Fullest”