

EY23 ANNUAL REPORT

July 2022 to June 2023



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Gateway Chapter



GATEWAY CHAPTER 100

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

OFFICERS

President - Rose Ganz
Vice President - Harry Brown
Treasurer - Donald Feldott
Secretary - Bram Lucieer

BOARD

Doug Barnes
Chad Buder
Don Feldott
Bonnie Hilburn
Robert Huskey, PhD
Ken Johanning
Ruth Kult
Matt Schneider

APPOINTMENTS

VAVS Representative JB - Doug Barnes
VAVS Deputy - Ken Johanning
Membership Officer - Chris Blanchard
Sports Director - Bob Weigand
National Director - Don Feldott
Hospital Committee - Harry Brown

VETERANS WITH SPINAL CORD INJURY OR DISEASE, LIVING LIFE TO THE FULLEST

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rose Ganz

Welcome to the FY2023 Annual Report of the Gateway Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America. We were chartered in Missouri in 1976 and are one of the 33 national Chapters that serve the entire United States and Puerto Rico. Our fiscal year successes include the fact that we again received an Accredited Charity approval from the St. Louis Better Business Bureau and earned a Platinum (highest) Seal from GuideStar. As indicated by our latest independent audit on the last pages of this report, 90% of our expenditures went to programs! Out of every dollar we spent, 90 cents went to members and member programs. This exceptional program expense ratio provided many programs for our members, and helps to distinguish us as good stewards of the donations that we receive. We stand out from many other veterans charities in abundance today. Our tax filing (Federal Form 990) can be found on Guidestar.com and on our website at www.gatewaypva.org. Our Chapter is 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 are governed by a thirteen member volunteer Board of paralyzed veterans. The vision statement of the Gateway Chapter is “Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury or Disease Living Life to the Fullest.”

We do not accept any federal funding, as that would impede our ability to advocate for change in the VA system or in changes to federal ADA legislation. Instead we hold various fundraisers, apply for grants, and receive individual donations. Some of the programs that benefit from these include: free accessible transportation for members, holiday meals and monthly catered lunches to the Spinal Cord Injury Unit hospitalized patients at Jefferson Barracks, accessible housing renovation grants for members, sports/recreation travel for members, grants for accessible van modifications, and cosponsoring the Veterans Outdoor Adventure at Trout Lodge. In FY23 we awarded \$238,561 in membership grant programs to include the Home Accessibility Grant, Hand Control Grant, Accessible Automobile Grant, and Generator Grants. When you add in other program expenses like luncheons and newsletters, Gateway spent \$663,410 on veteran member programs.

Your support and interest are crucial. Donations are, of course, always accepted and tax-deductible. Call us with any questions on our local line 314-427-0393 or toll-free 1-800-426-4058; or email myself at rose@gatewaypva.org or our staff at chris@gatewaypva.org and at amber@gatewaypva.org.

GATEWAY CHAPTER PVA PROGRAMS



SPORTS & RECREATION

The Gateway Chapter continued providing recreational opportunities to our members. Board member Lou Monken was our Sports Director. We spent \$86,128 on sports and recreation events for this fiscal year. Our Chapter continued the program of sponsoring “nights out” for members to attend movies, dinners, and sporting events by redeeming their participation points. In September of 2023 the 8th Annual YMCA Trout Lodge outing in Southeast Missouri, was again successfully held. This Gateway sponsored event 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.

COMMUNICATIONS

Our newsletter is put together almost entirely by Amber Lee, our Executive Assistant, without any outside consultants like the other Chapters use. The Gateway Gazette is our bi-monthly newsletter. Our Executive Director and Executive Assistant accomplish all functions in the creation, publication, and mailing of the newsletters. We mail out over 600 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.



VOLUNTEERS

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 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.

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.

MEMBERSHIP

At our fiscal year end on June 30, 2023, we had 573 total members. Of those 606 members, 244 were service connected and 362 were non-service connected. Our President, Executive Director, Executive 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 meetings are held via Zoom on the third Thursday of the month on a quarterly basis. These meetings give our members the opportunity to discuss issues and learn about the many facets of their Chapter. In addition to meeting in St. Louis, the Chapter President and Executive Director drive 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 food, drinks and comradery.

In an effort to increase our membership involvement, we fund “nights out” at restaurants and entertainment events for members who are active with the Gateway Chapter. 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.

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. In FY23 Executive Assistant Amber Lee volunteered to be the Acting GRD and has 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 February 2023, Gateway Member Larry Porter attended in person and Acting GRD Lee attended virtually; the Advocacy/Legislation Week training and made visits to all legislators.

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.



SERVICE

Our Senior National Service Officer (NSO) Brent Follas, in Kansas City, had 3,746 total contacts for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. There were 2,743 member or member-eligible targeted contacts of the 3,746 total. Mr. Follas assisted in eligible veterans receiving \$5,559,647 total awards with \$4,769,791 for target clients in benefit claims. Mr. Follas' office is located at the Kansas City VAMC office at 4801 Linwood Boulevard, Room M1-56. The Gateway members were served in a very professional manner by PVA Senior Benefits Officer, Rodney Harris, whose office is at the Jefferson Barracks Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Unit Building 52. Mr. Harris had 1,569 total contacts for FY23, with 1,355 of those being targeted contacts. Mr. Harris assisted in eligible veterans receiving \$1,190,772 total awards with \$1,134,068 for target clients in benefit claims.



PATIENT SERVICES

Board member, Harry Brown is our local Jefferson Barracks VA Chapter Hospital Committee chairman. Harry visits 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 Board 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.” 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 boxed lunches, 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.

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 Executive Assistant, Amber Lee who has been with our Chapter since August 2015.

TRANSPORTATION

The Gateway Chapter PVA transportation program is overseen by the President and the Executive Director. Our bus can transport seven veterans in wheelchairs and four individuals in seats.

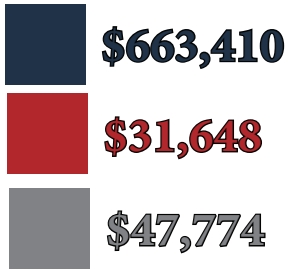
Our two part-time drivers, John Vasel and Martha Rampani, are available five days per week and take the passengers to clinic appointments, appointments for therapy, grocery stores, banks and other events/activities such as our annual membership picnic, ball games, movies, and the St. Louis Veteran's 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.



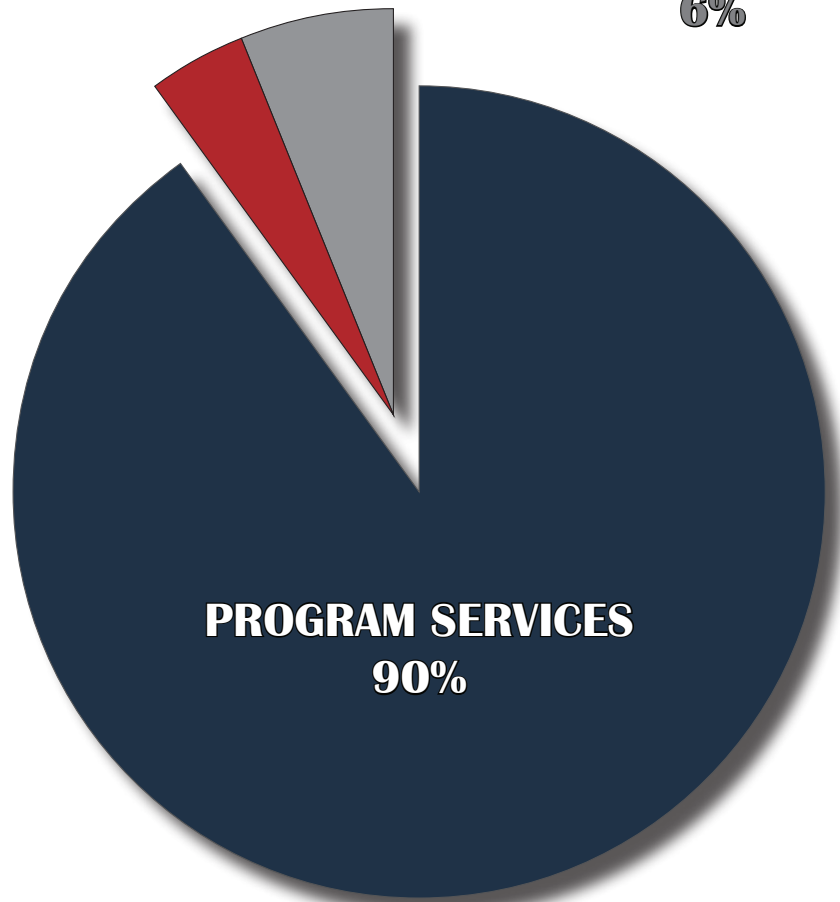
FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT

In Fiscal Year 2023 we were able to resume our biggest fundraiser, our charity golf tournament. We raised a gross of \$57,333. At the end of 2022 we launched our seventh annual holiday giving campaign, and raised \$23,725. Our list of donors from past years of telemarketing—along with our non-telemarketing donors—was assembled and sent a letter explaining our efforts for an annual holiday campaign. We are overwhelmed with joy that this effort was a great success. We also received significant donations from Nancy Fox, Others First, Fleming Charitable Foundation, JW and Bonnie Youngblood, Vanguard Charitable Funds, Marilyn Baum, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard May.



FUNDRAISING
4%

ADMINISTRATION
6%



PROGRAM SERVICES
90%

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS OF JUNE 30, 2023 AND JUNE 30, 2022

CURRENT ASSETS:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
CASH	\$70,246	\$123,503
INVESTMENTS	\$809,478	\$900,733
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$879,724	\$1,024,236

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:

BUILDING AND IMPROVEMENT	\$896,459	\$896,459
FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT	\$145,081	\$145,081
	\$1,041,540	\$1,041,540
LESS: ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	\$452,722	\$422,953
NET PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	\$588,818	\$618,587
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,468,542	\$1,642,823

LIABILITIES:

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$4,209	\$4,540
ACCRUED LEAVE	\$15,627	\$7,597
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$19,836	\$12,137

NET ASSETS:

WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	\$1,448,706	\$1,630,686
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$1,468,542	\$1,642,823

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023
AND JUNE 30, 2022

CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
REVENUE AND GAINS:		
PVA GRANT	\$151,453	\$158,620
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$134,727	\$202,055
INVESTMENT INCOME	\$99,006	(\$136,616)
SPECIAL EVENTS	\$66,890	\$100,915
OTHER RECEIPTS	\$32,392	\$11,630
RENTAL REVENUE	\$76,384	\$74,793
PPP LOAN	-0-	\$27,500
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$560,852	\$438,897
EXPENSES:		
PROGRAM SERVICES	\$663,410	\$556,705
SUPPORT SERVICES:		
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATION	\$47,774	\$38,717
FUND RAISING	\$31,648	\$25,528
TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES	\$79,422	\$64,245
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$742,832	\$620,950
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	(\$181,980)	(\$182,053)
NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$1,630,686	\$1,812,739
NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS, END OF YEAR	\$1,448,706	\$1,630,686



Gateway Chapter
1311 Lindbergh Plaza Center
St. Louis, MO 63132

