



# 2008-2009 Annual Report

**Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America**

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Dave Parker - Chief Editor  
Joel Satoris - Assistant Editor  
Audrey Wakefield - Assistant Designer

## Oregon PVA

### Mission Statement

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America (OPVA) is committed to take those actions necessary to improve the quality of life and to protect the rights of spinal cord injured or neurologically impaired veterans through: veterans benefits protection; advocacy; legislation; sports and recreation; hospital liaison and spinal cord research.

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**National  
Service  
Officer**



**Do you need assistance  
with your claims or  
benefits?**

**Ken Fink**

1-800-795-2538  
Fax: 503-412-4763

### Vancouver VA Primary Care Contact Phone Numbers

(360) 696-4061 ext. 31665  
(503) 220-8262 ext. 31665  
1-800-949-1004 ext. 31665

**After Hours Number**  
1-888-233-8305

### Portland VA Contact Phone Number

**Patient Advocates**  
Katina Collins, Trish  
Hafer, Kelly Williams  
**Portland**  
503-273-5308



# Oregon PVA

## President's Message

By ANTHONY MARX, President

The 2008-09 year was a priority to be member oriented and goal specific on meeting the individual needs of veterans and people with disabilities who call the office for assistance. On average we received between 5 to 10 requests for assistance on how to use the VA Medical System rectifying problems with medical supply and durable goods. One of the largest areas of service that we provided was getting our members appropriate, timely scheduling for wound care treatment.

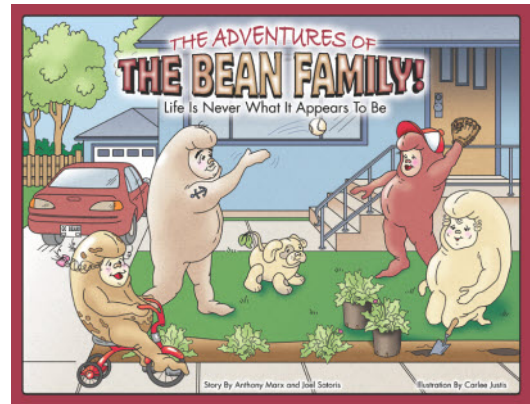
As always we are concerned about accessibility to businesses in the community but we often overlooked the accessibility of our own office. This year we did a major reconstruction of the interior space of the office and reallocation and striping of the parking lot. The office is much more open and easier to move around in for wheelchair users as well as more inviting to the general public.

One of the most important things that we concentrated on this year was branding of the Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America name. We accomplished the first phases of name recognition through participating in four major outdoor events in the Salem area where we provided information about who we are and what we do for the community.

The second major change was revamping and launching a website with up to date information to assist members and people with disabilities.

The third item was reworking our telemarketing script so that the focus was a call to action to find eligible members first and then a donation second. The change in focus increased revenue by nearly 100 percent. In addition, we were able to help several inquiries per week and picked up a few members along the way.

Toward the end of this fiscal year we hired an illustrator to put together a 16 page coloring book titled "The Adventures of the Bean Family". This book



will be used to help children deal with emotional trauma when a parent becomes disabled. We have received overwhelming support from, psychologists, social workers and therapists about the storyline and illustrations of the coloring book. The coloring book should be in circulation by the end of January 2010.

One item that I want to make note of is that due to the increased revenue from our telemarketing, our program expenses appear to be only 50% instead of nearly 70% in previous years. Due to the requirements of the IRS we were not able to allocate any of the fundraising cost to public education or to any of our programs. Even though we have helped hundreds of people with issues on medical care or resource information as a direct result of a call from our telemarketer, we can not show that on our financial statement. Next year, we will be rewriting our telemarketing contract so that appropriate allocation can be done that truly represents our call to action and outreach through telemarketing.

Overall it was a very successful year with the restructuring of our priorities and through the process we tripled the amount of volunteer hours which exceeded 6,000 hours in 2008-2009. None of this would have been possible without the dedication of the volunteers, VA Work Study students and paid staff.



# Treasurer's Report

By JOEL SATORIS, Treasurer

With the down turn of the economy the Board closely monitored our investment portfolio to ensure that we took appropriate action to maximize our financial stability. Due to this diligence our investments for the 12 month period only declined \$2,000 in our mutual funds. However, we were able to put aside \$50,000 in CD's due to the improved success of our telemarketing and other fundraising ventures.

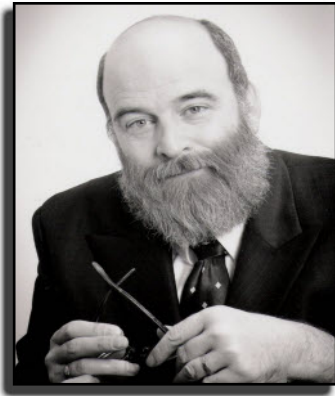
Due to the decreased revenue stream at the National office the Chapter grant was reduced by \$25,000.

I am proud to say that even with the reduction of the Chapter grant we still donated \$5,000 to spinal cord research, \$5,000 to The Fisher House and increased the membership recreation fund. The other major expenditure was purchasing a \$16,000 high-end copy machine to meet the increased demand for printing and binding.

We also spent \$12,000 on the remodel and upgrades in the office to meet accessibility standards that we require other businesses to adhere to. This was a good year and with continued diligence Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America will be financially strong for years to come.

## Seattle Fisher House





## Government Relations & Advocacy Report

By KEVIN O'REILLY, GRD/Advocacy Director

This year's focus in the State Legislature was very specific and direct due to the fact that it was special session. However, with the concerted effort of the United Veterans Groups of Oregon (UVGO), the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs and other military and veteran organizations, produced one of the best years for our veterans with passage of more than 20 bills.

As we are all painfully aware, the economy took a big hit. This affected the state's ability to expand programs, services or benefits that had any sort of physical impact. One of the bills that we feel impacted our members the most was Senate Bill 595. This bill provides a tuition waiver at state universities for the survivors and dependents of loss of life in the line of duty or 100% service connected disabled. Another major success was House Bill 2178 which provides a veterans service officer to be assigned to each state university and community college. One

final bill I want to mention is Senate Bill 98 which establishes a task force to study how to enhance transportation options for veterans to access health care. There will be an emphasis on significantly disabled and rural veterans.

On the Federal scene, I would like to mention three bills, the first being Senate Bill 801 the Family Caregivers Program Act of 2009. This bill establishes a permanent program for caregivers of the disabled. Another bill was the establishment for advanced appropriations to ensure VA healthcare funding is adequate and on time. The last bill I would like to mention was to fund a three year study on service dogs for severely mobility impaired veterans and veterans with PTSD. This bill will determine through research the usefulness and beneficial assistance to set further policies within the VA medical care system.

## Public Awareness Campaign





# Hospital Liaison

## Program Report

By JOEL SATORIS, Hospital Liaison Director

As I stated last year, this year's battle was getting the Veterans Administration to follow their own regulations in regard to medical care program eligibility as well as entitlements. Three areas that we concentrated on was Bowel and Bladder Fee Basis Program; prosthetic issues and access to timely and appropriate wound care.

I would like to report that we were able to increase the hourly wage for Bowel and Bladder Fee Basis from \$8.00 per hour to \$11.61 per hour. We also had 60 new enrollments into the program that were members.

In regard to prosthetics, we try not to laugh because it is hard to know what they are doing when they don't know themselves. There is a huge discrepancy within VISN 20 on entitlements for non service connected veterans as it pertains to van conversion access and use of prosthetics cards. As a whole the prosthetics system is being overhauled and is in a constant state of change. The Portland VAMC hired a brand new prosthetics chief that is still in training and the Seattle VAMC hired a chief that had been removed as chief in two prior locations in the southern United States. The two new hires alone have increased delays and denials of service to non service and service connected members. We have smoothed out a few of the kinks but our work is far from being over.

We no longer have an SCI Clinic at the Roseburg VAMC. They were operating a clinic without a certified team or even a team at all. We addressed the issue and had the fictitious clinic removed off the listings until a certified team is in place. Due to the region, recruitment for the appropriate personnel has

been unsuccessful. However, Carolyn Lundstrom, MSW, LCSW is part of the primary care team as the Spinal Cord Coordinator at the Vancouver VAMC.

One issue that we brought up at the beginning of this year was the lack of understanding of MRSA (*Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus*). Through our efforts of working with the Seattle SCI Unit we were able to put out information to our members that was factual and helpful in dealing with MRSA. In addition, now there are increased protocols and information at the Seattle SCI Unit for patients to keep informed and to protect themselves.

We have been bragging a lot about the impact that The Fisher House has on the emotional wellbeing of patients on the SCI Unit. I must personally say that the reports coming in from members whose family have utilized The Fisher House has been nothing less than absolutely amazing with extreme appreciation.

As always, we continue to be active at The Dalles Veterans Home by providing hotdog feeds, prime rib dinner and monthly support to ensure clients have personal items of comfort and daily incidentals. We also continue to work with our spinal cord clinic and MS clinic to ensure our members' needs are adequately being addressed. On a personal note, I have experienced the pro-activeness of this Chapter when it comes to intervention on behalf of the member for appropriate medical. Because of the Chapter's intervention I experienced the best medical care that I have ever had at CRU in Vancouver which in all reality saved my life.



## Sports & Recreation Report

By JACK HOWELL Sports/Recreation Director

This year, since the Veterans Wheelchair Games were so close we were able to send 10 members as athletes. Many of these members returned with a greater enthusiasm to participate in local events and promote the Chapter.

We also participated in the Winter Sports Clinic where members experienced winter sports such as skiing, snow mobile trips and other winter activities. As always we try to encourage more members to participate however, the level of involvement is still less than I desire.

Each year we continue with our deep sea fishing trips on the Kadaho. The Captain, Darrell Hobbs, continues to provide a great fishing and crabbing experience for our members and the US Coast Guard continues to assist our members on and off the Kadaho. One special note, one of our members set the record for the largest Halibut caught off the coast of Oregon, which weighed in at over 100 pounds. In addition, we had great coverage from the Statesman Journal with a video cast that was on the Chapter's website.

As we stated last year, we tried a fresh water outing for members who use electric wheelchairs which had a low turnout. The issue was not the desire to attend, but the unavailability of accessible transportation to participate. We will be looking at rectifying the transportation issue next year.

One of the year's highlights is always the FREE Fish Day at Detroit Lake. The kids who attended not only caught fish, won prizes and learned how to tie flies -- but most of all enjoyed an experience that brought families together. This year we fed over 300 little people (kids) and look forward to a larger

turn-out next year.

We continue to sponsor the Portland Pounders rugby team, which has several of our members on the team. The Pounders represent the ability to overcome and continue to be a great public awareness of ability, not disability.

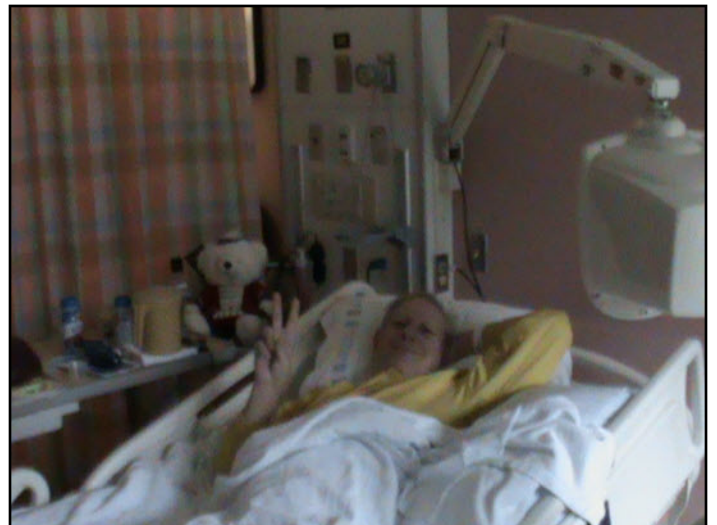
As always, we continue to sponsor the Rabbit Hunt at Camp Adair in February for those members and people with disabilities who can't resist a great day shooting guns and building friendships.

This year we expanded the Trap Shooting Program to include several shooting clinics as well as working with two local clubs to improve accessibility and awareness. We sent two teams to the Trap Shoot in Washington as well as hosted an Inter-Chapter Shoot in September.

Still one of the most utilized programs we have is the Recreation Fund where our members no matter where they live can enjoy an activity of their choice and be reimbursed by the Chapter. This year we expended over \$16,000 and hopefully more members will utilize this fund and become more active.



# Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America



# “Serving Those Who Served”



# Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America “Staying Active”





# Membership

## Program Report

By WILLIAM "BILL" BLAKE, Membership Director

This year we were able to call each member twice. Through calls made to the members we have identified several issues that are a constant problem dealing with the VAMC. The first was access to a primary care physician at the SCI Clinic at the Vancouver VA. Through our Hospital Liaison Program, communication with the clinic has improved and the members obtained better service since the hiring of Carolyn Lundstrom, the SCI social worker. By having direct communication with our members we were able to isolate minor problems in service and help resolve issues before they became more widely spread.

The response to the Recreation Fund has been very encouraging. One of the facets of the program is to write a brief description of the use of the fund by the member. Many of these brief descriptions were published in the Paralog and inspired other members to utilize this great program.

Unfortunately, our annual picnic was canceled due to the fact that we did not have enough advanced registration to cover the basic cost of the event which would have been held at Oaks Park. After reviewing comments and solicitation from the membership, holding the event on a weekday was the main reason for the lack of interest. Next year the event will be held on a Saturday and possibly a

different location to accommodate the needs of the membership.

Several letters were sent to the membership by the President of Oregon PVA providing up to date information and notices of upcoming events. There were also two surveys on healthcare issues that helped the Chapter and our Service Officer in areas that needed to be addressed. Through the outreach of telemarketing and public relations efforts within the community, we've been able to increase our membership from 341 to 349. We are now at a ratio where we have more than 50% of our members that sustained their injury after they were discharged from the military.

Our volunteer base has increased to 49 individuals. With the increase of volunteers we have become more effective in managing our programs and resolving issues for the membership.

We ended the year with our annual banquet that was held at Spirit Mountain Casino. More than 130 people attended and we provided rooms at a discounted rate for more than 40 members. We had the pleasure of having our National Vice President, Al Kovach and his lovely wife Magaly as our special guests. This has been our best turnout for an annual banquet and we hope to improve this event next year.



# Communications

## Report

### **Administration**

Oregon PVA's office is located in Salem at 3700 Silverton Rd. NE. Normal operating hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Pacific Standard time. We are closed on all federal holidays. Our local telephone number is: 503-362-7998. Toll Free: 1-800-333-0782. Fax number: 503-362-7998. Our email is [oregonpva@oregonpva.org](mailto:oregonpva@oregonpva.org) and our website is: [www.oregonpva.org](http://www.oregonpva.org)

Each officer and Board Member report in the office at least one to two days a week to work on their programs and assist with daily operations of the chapter. The chapter office is the main source of information to assist our members and the community. The chapter staffed one full-time employee and two part-time employees this year.

### **Communications**

This year we purchased the 2008 Nonprofit Edition of Quickbooks software. We also rebuilt our network and encrypted our wireless access to our server. We updated our firewall protection to our system and changed our email provider.

### **Newsletter**

We rebuilt the design of the newsletter to accommodate higher quality images and easier to read text for those who have visual impairments. We continue to post our newsletter in PDF format on our website as well as a bi-monthly hard copy mailing to our membership and subscribers. In addition, we updated our advertising rates which raised revenue to improve the quality and circulation of the newsletter.

### **Website**

Our website was re-launched in May 2009 to provide easy navigation for the novice as well as the long time advocate. This is where individuals can find up to date information on programs, campaigns and plenty of resources to help make a difference today for veterans with spinal cord injury and disease.

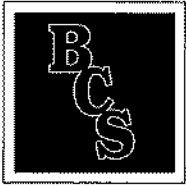
### **Education**

To keep up to date skills and knowledge, staff and board members attend conferences and seminars that are relevant to non profits as well as issues that pertain to our mission. We continue to be a member of the Nonprofit Association of Oregon as well as members of the local Chambers of Commerce.

In addition, we continually strive to create opportunities for those in the community to further their skills with real life application. This has been accomplished through the VA Work Study Program which is offered through the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans.

### **VA Work Study Program**

This program is through the Department of Veteran's Affairs for veterans who are training full-time or 3/4 time in a college degree, vocational, or professional program. They earn the federal minimum wage and are paid by the VA. A contract can be up to a year and is determined by the VA. This year Jose Samaniego, Richard Eisenblatter and Richard Rayas worked with Oregon PVA through the Work Study Program.



# **BOLDT, CARLISLE & SMITH LLC**

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## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

### **Board of Directors**

**OREGON PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.**

**Salem, Oregon**

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of **OREGON PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.** (a nonprofit organization) as of September 30, 2009 and 2008, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of **OREGON PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.** as of September 30, 2009 and 2008, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The schedule of administrative expenses on page 18 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relations to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

*Boldt, Carlisle & Smith, LLC*

Certified Public Accountants

Salem, Oregon

December 23, 2009

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Established - 1968

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ALBANY: 321 1<sup>st</sup> AVENUE E STE 2A ■ ALBANY, OR 97321 ■ PHONE: (541) 928-6500 ■ FAX: (541) 928-6501

**OREGON PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.**

**STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

**September 30, 2009 and 2008**

	<b>ASSETS</b>	
	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 64,414	49,164
Inventory	-	18,455
Prepaid expenses	<u>1,035</u>	<u>545</u>
Total current assets	65,449	68,164
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>	294,775	254,322
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, net</b>	<u>305,223</u>	<u>303,734</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 665,447</u>	<u>\$ 626,220</u>
	<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 22,764	\$ 9,650
Current portion of long-term obligations	<u>10,811</u>	<u>9,841</u>
Total current liabilities	33,575	19,491
<b>LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS</b>	<u>19,971</u>	<u>30,899</u>
Total liabilities	<u>53,546</u>	<u>50,390</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted		
Designated	-	6,552
Operating	<u>481,640</u>	<u>422,803</u>
Total unrestricted	481,640	429,355
Temporarily restricted	<u>130,261</u>	<u>146,475</u>
Total net assets	<u>611,901</u>	<u>575,830</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 665,447</u>	<u>\$ 626,220</u>

**OREGON PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.**

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
For The Year Ended September 30, 2009**

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Totals
<b>SUPPORT, REVENUES, AND RECLASSIFICATIONS</b>			
Support:			
Contributions	\$ 13,904	\$ -	\$ 13,904
Grants	173,681	-	173,681
Fundraising	460,485	-	460,485
Total support	648,070	-	648,070
Revenues:			
Special events	3,835	-	3,835
Associate member dues	10	-	10
Advertising	4,963	-	4,963
Investment earnings	11,841	-	11,841
Unrealized (loss) on investments	(9,791)	-	(9,791)
Total revenues	10,858	-	10,858
Net assets released from restriction	16,214	(16,214)	-
Total support, revenues, and reclassifications	675,142	(16,214)	658,928
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program services:			
Communications	23,786	-	23,786
Government relations	58,469	-	58,469
Hospital/services	67,037	-	67,037
Membership and benefits	77,238	-	77,238
Sports	74,005	-	74,005
Total program services	300,535	-	300,535
Support services:			
Fundraising	322,322	-	322,322
Total expenses	622,857	-	622,857
Change in net assets	52,285	(16,214)	36,071
Net assets - beginning of year	429,355	146,475	575,830
Net assets - end of year	\$ 481,640	\$ 130,261	\$ 611,901

Discover what life can be in



# ALASKA

Holland America - Zaandam

June 18, 2010

**7 - Night Round Trip - Seattle**

**Exclusive PVA Group Rates for  
All PVA Members & Families Only**

Contact Information:

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America  
800.333.0782 or [www.oregonpva.org](http://www.oregonpva.org)

Cruise Planners

Art or Monica Walker  
toll-free: 877.540.7662

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