



Media Kit

Mountain States Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America

Connecting paralyzed veterans with opportunity for growth, camaraderie, and challenge



Encouraging participation in life through sports, recreation, and advocacy



Advocating for the dissolution of barriers for veterans and the disabled community



12200 East Iliff Ave. #107; Aurora, CO 80014
Toll Free: 800-833-9400 ♦ Website: www.mscpva.org



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History

The Mountain States Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (MSCPVA) is a member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, a congressionally chartered veteran's service organization specializing in assisting and promoting a full lifestyle for veterans affected by spinal cord injury or neurological disease. We are an IRS, tax-exempt - 501 (c) 3 organization. All personal contributions are therefore tax deductible.

The Paralyzed Veterans of America was formed in 1946. The Mountain States Chapter (MSCPVA) is one of 34 chapters of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, a national organization, headquartered in Washington, DC. MSCPVA received its charter in 1955 and has served paralyzed veterans in the four state regions of Colorado, Montana, Wyoming & Utah since its inception.

Mission

The mission of MSCPVA is to provide veterans affected with spinal cord injury or disease commensurate opportunities that are afforded those without spinal cord injury or disease. This is accomplished by the coordinated efforts of the MSCPVA organization through programs:

- To advocate for and monitor the delivery of high quality and appropriate health care benefits and services
- To assist in identifying and securing veterans' benefits and other benefits for spinal cord injured and diseased veterans and others as appropriate
- To promote medical research to cure spinal cord dysfunction and other related problems
- To educate society on the attitudinal, physical and legal barriers which confront persons with disabilities and to influence the removal of those barriers
- To provide information to and opportunities for health promotion, recreation, employment, sports, services, and camaraderie for spinal cord injured and diseased veterans and others as appropriate
- To provide for cooperation with and seek the support of other groups and individuals who share PVA's objectives
- To acquaint the public with the current and on-going needs and current and past contributions of America's veterans
- To acquaint the public with simple and effective means for reducing the risk of preventing spinal cord injury
- To promote involvement of the public in national and local activities that support PVA's mission



Mountain States Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America

FACT SHEET

1. The Mountain States Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America (MSCPVA) is affiliated with Paralyzed Veterans of America National (PVA) located in Washington DC, yet is a separate nonprofit run by its own board of director's.
2. MSCPVA does not receive any federal or state funding and relies completely on the philanthropic generosity of small donors, grants, and sponsorship funding.
3. MSCPVA offers a variety of sports and recreation opportunities for members, with an annual bowling tournament, billiards tournament, winter sports clinic, and poker league.
4. MSCPVA has a dynamic advocacy program, which includes advocating for legislation, and communicating with media about disability rights, along with other activities.
5. MSCPVA's National Service Officers provide assistance to members who need to file claims with the Veterans Administration.
6. MSCPVA spends 78 cents of every dollar on programs and only 22 cents of every dollar on administration and fundraising.
7. MSCPVA has over 600 members in the four state regions of Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and Montana.
8. MSCPVA is registered with the [Better Business Bureau](#) as a business and is currently working on getting a charity certification from the BBB.
9. MSCPVA is a member of the United Veterans Council, the Association of Fundraising Professionals, and the Colorado Planned Giving Roundtable.
10. MSCPVA is currently participating in the Combined Federal Campaign for the following regions: Metro Denver, Larimer, Western MT, Big Sky MT, Intermountain, Great Falls, Weld, Southwest MT, Western South Dakota, and Wyoming, and the CFC number is: 15875.

Media Available for Use

Public Service Announcements

- Quick time file on DVD
 - BETA sp Tape
 - Links on website
- Other formats available with request

Press Releases

- Available on website at:

http://www.mscpva.org/press_releases.html

LOGO





Media Inquiries for the Mountain States Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America



Mark E. Shepherd, Sr., MBA

Executive Director

Mr. Shepherd has been the Executive Director of the Mountain States Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America since 2002. He is a US Army veteran and former member of the prestigious Presidential Honor Guard. Mr. Shepherd oversees and directs the administrative functions of MSCPVA. Mr. Shepherd is a graduate of St. Mary's College of California and holds a Master of Business Administration from Regis University. He is a published author and has spoken extensively on disability issues.



Jessica Sweeney, MPA

Government Relations Director

Ms. Sweeney holds an undergraduate degree in Social Work from Colorado State University and a Master's of Public Administration from the University of Colorado Denver. Jessica has worked on numerous healthcare policy issues, including the management of a Federal-wide Assurance, which requires training for physicians in accordance with the Office for Human Research Protections. Prior to her health care policy work, she worked as a Parenting-Time Counselor where she supervised visits between parents and children. Additionally, she worked for Hospice and spent eight years as a nurse's aide where she traveled to over 50 facilities as needed.



Member Profiles

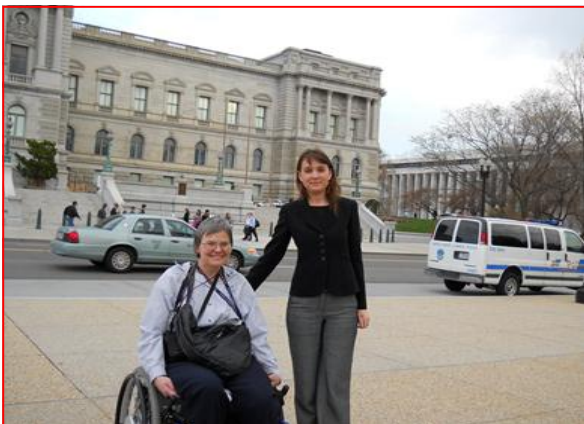


Dave Wolf has been a member of the Mountain States Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America (MSCPVA) since 1987.

Dave served in the US Army.

Dave participates in the MSCPVA sports and recreation program by handcycling, skiing, and playing basketball.

Dave says, "I wouldn't be where I am today without PVA."



Diane Marsh has been a member of MSCPVA since 1988.

Diane served in the US Army.

Diane went to Washington D.C. last year to meet with our elected officials and advocate for change on behalf of veterans and people with disabilities.



Dennis Gordon has been a member of MSCPVA since 2009.

Dennis served in the US Army and is a Viet Nam Veteran.

Dennis participates in MSCPVA sports such as handcycling and skiing.

Dennis says, "I joined MSCPVA because they really support their members."

MSCPVA serves over 600 members in the states of, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and Montana

Member Benefits



Membership Meetings

Two semi-annual membership meetings, held in November and March, give our members an opportunity to meet our Board of Directors, staff and fellow members. Members are encouraged to bring their ideas and contribute to the development of chapter programs and activities.

Sports and Recreation Leagues

MSCPVA sponsors members who participate in two bowling leagues in Colorado Springs, an Aurora bowling league, and a monthly poker league in Colorado Springs. The poker league offers monthly prizes, and game points are collected for a grand prize at the end of the league.



Grants to Members

Members who attend the National Veterans Wheelchair Games for the first time are eligible to have their expenses paid by MSCPVA. Returning athletes are eligible for partial reimbursement.

Continuing education reimbursement and recreational reimbursement grants are also available to members.

Community Events

MSCPVA members roll and walk the routes of the Denver Veterans Day and Memorial Day parades each year. Involvement in the community is important to our mission. Our member athletes serve as mentors at two youth sports camps — Junior Wheelchair Sports Camp and Easter Seals Youth Camp.

Our visibility in the community promotes awareness of the continued contributions made by American veterans.



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