



Keystone Paralyzed Veterans Projects and Programs

This list of Keystone PVA programs is not comprehensive, nor does it envelop the chapter's entire budget. Advocacy, hospital liaison, and many smaller, ad-hoc meetings and programs are not shown here. The dollar values shown are direct costs; they do not include any overhead or staff support time, which can be estimated at another 50 percent of the direct costs. **Keystone PVA will be flexible in providing recognition or specific sponsorship designations for donors who wish to support some or all of a project or program.**

EVENTS

Annual Awards Banquet

It's some business and a lot of fun as we hold this dinner program on the first Thursday of October, often with a great speaker and always with much recognition and many door prizes. There is no charge for members who are paralyzed ("life" members) and their guests, and no charge for associate members.

Total cost of project: \$6,000
2012 funding status: Not yet funded.

Kennywood Picnic

To get more paralyzed veterans out and about with their families, Keystone PVA reserves a pavilion and has a picnic dinner catered at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin in July. The park's management is exceptionally helpful to wheelchair users, encouraging us to bring our members and their families back each year. 2012 will be the 22nd consecutive outing.

Total cost of project: \$4,500
2012 funding status: Not yet funded.

Open House

During Paralyzed Veterans Awareness Month (April), Keystone PVA invites friends and associates to visit. The chapter's leaders meet and greet government officials, VA personnel, program sponsors, and other friends, as well as members who might not usually have reason to visit the Pennsylvania headquarters of the state PVA chapter. This event also serves as "spring cleaning" following winters during which foot and wheel traffic take their toll on the property and the grounds need to be cleaned up.

Total cost of project: \$1,500
2012 funding status: Partially funded by a sponsorship.

SERVICE

Advocacy/Legislation Seminar

Paralyzed Veterans of America has a very capable and successful Government Relations Department, but its work is most effective when veterans who use wheelchairs can visit members of Congress to tell their stories about health care and other concerns. Keystone PVA tries to send two to five members to Washington during March of each year to visit the offices of each member of Congress from Pennsylvania. There are two days of seminars on the issues that most affect paralyzed vets and two days of Congressional meetings.

Total cost of project: \$1,750 per attendee
2012 funding status: Was not funded.

Easter Bag Project

Just before Easter, Keystone PVA volunteers deliver bags, decorated for Easter by schoolchildren, to 500 hospitalized veterans in the Pittsburgh region. The bags include toiletries and other items these veterans need while they are in the VA hospitals or state veterans home. Keystone PVA volunteers buy the bags and toiletries, assemble them at the Keystone PVA offices, and personally deliver them.

Total cost of project: \$3,000
2012 funding status: fully funded by donations.

Hospital inpatient assistance

Active paralyzed veterans visit hospitalized veterans in these five Pennsylvania VA medical centers: Altoona, Butler, Erie, Lebanon, and Pittsburgh (three campuses). While the VA gives them medical treatment, a bed and three meals, many of the smaller amenities—reading material, hobby items and haircuts, for example, have to be provided by the patient or another non-VA source. Keystone PVA members who visit try to fill the gaps, especially by providing canteen booklets, whose coupons allow patients to buy small goods and services themselves.

Total cost of project: \$15,000
2012 funding status: Not yet funded.

SPORTS & RECREATION

There are many programs in the Keystone PVA Sports & Recreation budget. Because an overwhelming number of paralyzed veterans have no income other than their small or modest disability payments, they are unable to get involved in many programs without substantial support. With the generosity of donors, Keystone PVA is able to fund most of the costs associated with these projects:

National Veterans Wheelchair Games

This is the largest single program item in our budget, but it supports between 12 and 20 wheelchair athletes, their attendants and coaches participating in the week-long athletic competition in locations ranging from New York City to Long Beach, from Anchorage to San Juan. Participation in

the “Games” is regarded by Keystone PVA as the culmination of a year-round program of encouragement to keep paralyzed vets active and as healthy as possible.

Total cost of project: \$25,000 to \$40,000.

Total cost of project in 2012: \$25,100 (\$1,395 per athlete)

2012 funding status: One athlete sponsored.

Anticipated cost of project in 2013: \$31,500 (\$1,750 per athlete, 18 athletes)

2013 funding status: no commitments yet.

Other sports and recreation (bowling, swimming, scuba diving, quad rugby, general fitness, etc.)

Whether the program is weekly, annual or somewhere in between, Keystone PVA encourages its members to stay active in programs that enhance their health and their lives, and in which their families may participate.

Total cost of project: \$10,000

2012 funding status: Not yet funded.

Outdoor recreation (hunting, fishing, etc)

Before these veterans were hurt or contracted a spinal cord disease, many of them were active outdoorsmen, which fits in very well with Pennsylvania’s outdoor culture. The chapter accepts special requests for support from its members for hunting, fishing, shooting, archery, and other events.

Total cost of project: \$8,500

2012 funding status: Not yet funded.

Sporting club memberships, outdoor recreation licenses

Keystone PVA will cover these costs to encourage paralyzed vets’ continuing physical activities.

Total cost of project: \$1,000

2012 funding status: Not yet funded.