

Paralyzed Vets advocate for caregivers and selves



U.S. Representative **Glenn "GT" Thompson** of Pennsylvania's 15th District (*back left*) and his legislative assistant **Conor Hartnett** (*back right*) met with Keystone PVA President **Mark Rosensteel** (*front left*) and Vice President **Sean Ferry** (*front right*). Mark is a constituent of Representative Thompson.

ADD YOUR VOICE!

Members of Congress who vote on the laws and budgets that make veterans' benefits happen need to be reminded that there are veterans in their districts who depend on the health care and other benefits that they earned in defense of the people of the United States of America.

Your health care and other benefits are not automatic. PVA, the Keystone Chapter, and other service organizations have been struggling to keep and improve those benefits for decades.

You can help keep and improve YOUR health care and other benefits with a few phone calls and even a few letters or emails.

Defend your right to the health care and other services you earned and you need.

Contact the Keystone PVA office now to ask how.

Three officers of the Keystone Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America traveled to Washington D.C. in June to meet with members of Congress and their staff members who specialize in veterans issues to encourage Congress to pass laws necessary for improved quality of life support for veterans, especially paralyzed vets.

President Mark Rosensteel, Vice President Sean Ferry, and Secretary Peter Townsend began the trip with a day-long seminar in Arlington, Virginia with the leadership of the Paralyzed Veterans of America and the staff of the PVA Government Relations Department.

More photos on pages 3 and 6; text continues on page 8



Peter Townsend (*left*), Keystone PVA's corporate secretary and MS representative, met with Legislative Counsel **Trevor McLean** of U.S. Representative Madeleine Dean's staff.

The August Membership Meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. See the back page for details

Paralyzed Veterans of America, Keystone Chapter

Chapter founded 1960

President

Mark O. Rosensteel

Vice President

Sean M. Ferry

Secretary

Peter K. Townsend Jr.

Treasurer

William D. Jakovac

Directors

Joseph A. Dunn

William D. Lightner

Chris Fidler

Tom Strang

Advocacy Director

Peter K. Townsend Jr.

Fundraising Coordinator

William D. Jakovac

Hospital Visitation Coordinator

Chris Fidler

Legislative Director

Chris Fidler

Membership Officer

Tom Strang

MS Committee Representative

Peter K. Townsend Jr.

Service Officer

Joseph A. Dunn

Sports Director

Dane R. Smith

Volunteer Coordinator

Agnes Strang

National Director

William D. Jakovac

National Service Officers

See page 14

Executive Director

Joseph W. Dornbrock

Membership and Projects Coordinator

Sely Thanasack

Bookkeeper

Nancy F. Campbell

Administrative Assistant

Pattie Lujetic

Annual independent audit
conducted by

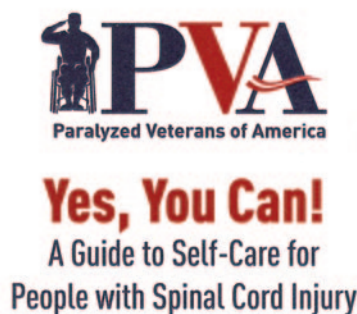
Kimberly Y. Donovan, CPA

We're changing the location of the Annual Awards Banquet

The Keystone PVA Annual Awards Banquet will be held at a new location in 2026. The Ramada Inn by Wyndham is located just south of Butler, Pennsylvania, on Pennsylvania Route 8.

The street address is 139 Pittsburgh Road, Butler PA 16001.

Read more about the banquet and new location on page 9.
And check out the offer for life members to be reimbursed for travel and lodging.



Scan to Download for Free!



PLAN AHEAD for these events:

Chapter Board of Directors election—Candidate information was due 15 June; ballots were mailed in late June. Deadline to return ballots to chapter office: 31 July. Ballot count to take place on 07 August; announcement of results at the Membership Meeting on 08 Aug.

Kennywood Park Picnic—Wednesday, 22 July, Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, Pa.

Bass Tournament (Summer)—Saturday, 05 September, American Legion Marina, W. Brownsville

Annual Awards Banquet—Thursday, 01 October, Ramada by Wyndham Butler, Butler Pa.

Veterans Day Parades—Pittsburgh and Erie, Pa.; exact dates to be announced

Membership Meetings—Held Saturdays at 10am except for the June meeting start at 12:45pm.

08 August: via Zoom for all members; chapter office open.

10 October: via Zoom for all members; chapter office open.

12 December: via Zoom for all members: chapter office open.

Now and then, times and dates change due to unforeseen circumstances.
Keep and eye on your email and/or call ahead.

Paralyzed Vets speak for caregivers, selves

Continued from page 1



(Top photo, left to right) **Rachel Rothgery** and **Anthony Papian** of Senator John Fetterman's staff discussed veterans issues with **Sean Ferry**, **Peter Townsend**, and **Mark Rosensteel**. Rachel is the Senator's Senior Policy Advisor, and Anthony is his Legislative Director.

(Photo at right) Mark and Sean with Legislative Director **Clare Dentner** of Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick's office.

(Photo at lower right) **Madhumita Gupta**, Legislative Correspondent for Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon, met with Peter and Sean.

(Photo at lower left) Sean and Mark took a moment with **Ben Hoffner**, Rep. Chris Deluzio's National Security Advisor, after their meeting.



Sports and Recreation Report Dane Smith, Sports Director

Fishing and hunting reports are by Tom Strang, Associate Sports Director. The bowling results are from Bill Jakovac. Dane and Mark Rosensteel coordinate the chapter's participation in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Mark also reports on shooting sports. David Gifford submits information on handcycling.

Bass Tournament has a good weather day and good catch

The Keystone PVA and the Outcasts Bass Club teamed up again for the late spring Team Bass Tournament in June and were rewarded with pleasant weather and nice catch from the Monongahela River near West Brownsville and the host marina provided by the American Legion Post there.

A total of \$2,550 in prize money was awarded to the top eight places. Prize money was earned by each team's total catch by weight and to the teams that caught the two biggest individual bass.

Outcasts Bass Club President Larry Freeman and his family provided a picnic lunch that included food grilled on the spot. Larry also instituted a new "drive-through" for weighing the catch, whereby each team, after pulling their bass boats from the river, drove to the weigh station, got its catch weighed, and moved on.

The late summer tournament is set for Saturday, 05 September.

First place—Bill Kronander, boat captain and Tom Strang, disabled angler: 9 lbs. 2 oz., including the Big Bass, 2 lbs. 10 oz.

Second place—Larry Freeman, boat captain and Jim Moore, disabled angler: 7 lbs. 4 oz., plus the second biggest bass, 2 lbs. 6 oz.

Third place—Sam Crawford, boat captain, and Frank Steck, disabled angler: 6 lbs. 10 oz.

Fourth place—Michael Moser, boat captain, and Rob Morris, disabled angler: 5 lbs. 4 oz.



(Left to right) Tom Strang and Bill Kronander hauled in the biggest catch and the biggest single bass in the chapter's first tournament of the year.

Fifth place—Ed Strawn, boat captain, and Rex Nichols, disabled angler: 4 lbs. 10 oz.

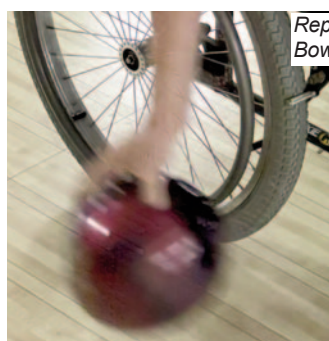
Sixth place—Steve Shawley, boat captain, and David Gifford, disabled angler: 2 lbs. 10 oz.

Seventh place—Philip Richardson, boat captain, and Gerald Cox, disabled angler: 1 lb. 6 oz.

Eighth place—Joe Johnson, boat captain, and Mark Rosensteel, disabled angler: 1 lb. 10 oz.

See the Bass Tournament turnout photo on page 8.

2025-26 season Keystone PVA bowling scores



*Reported as of early July 2026.
Bowling year: 01 Oct - 30 Sept*

	High Game	High Series	High Average	Strikes	Spares	Games	Average
Bob Baker	190	478	159	64	141	69	56
Sean Ferry	199	530	176	45	155	30	155
Bill Jackson	180	410	136	43	101	38	118
Bill Jakovac	164	403	134	34	38	18	112
Jorden Jones	193	444	148	18	55	12	143
John Kellner	189	504	168	252	541	141	140
Mark Rosensteel	211	552	184	125	328	64	158

Life members can bowl anytime and the chapter will reimburse up to three games per week!

Contact Mark Rosensteel (724-875-1086) or Bill Jakovac (412-916-9261) or the office for details.

Late Summer 2026 TEAM BASS TOURNAMENT



Team tournament with one able-bodied boat captain and one disabled angler

Sponsored by
the Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America,
the Outcasts Bass Club,
and
the Tom Landish Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation.

Top prize: \$750 for the winning two-person team
Plus: \$200 for the Big Bass
and prizes for places 2nd through 10th

Tournament at American Legion Post 940
800 Middle Street, West Brownsville PA 15417
Saturday, 05 September 2026, 5:30am to 3pm

Schedule: Disabled angler check in: 5:30 to 6 a.m.
Cast off: 7 a.m. Weigh-in: 1 p.m.
Picnic and prizes awarded after weigh-in

Tournament director:

Larry Freeman, 724-678-6860

Keystone PVA Associate Sports Director:

Tom Strang, 724-350-7955

**To receive the rules, registration and waiver form,
contact the chapter office, 412-781-2474**



Hunting and fishing events Tom Strang, Associate Sports Director

For more information call Tom Strang, 724-350-7955.

fishing outings. Learn more at projecthealingwaters.org.

For fishing and hunting in Pennsylvania a valid Pennsylvania hunting or fishing license is required. Keystone PVA will reimburse you for the cost of those licenses when you submit your receipts with the Volunteer Expense Report form by the 7th of each month. Contact the chapter office, 412-781-2474 for a form. One of our chapter goals is to have good hunting and angling events for our members and all persons with disabilities to enhance health, self esteem, confidence and independence.

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing

Disabled veterans can call Amanda Thompson, director for this organization in Western Pennsylvania, at 412-877-7864 to learn how to tie flies, build fly rods, and to go on

Patriots Cove is a nonprofit organization that provides outdoor recreational opportunities for disabled veterans and first responders. Current activities on its 18-acre accessible site include fly fishing and hunting retreats. Caregiver events are also planned. All food and lodging is provided at no expense to the participant. For additional details including registration please go to the Patriots Cove website: patriotscove.org.

Hunting at the WCJ Ranch

Deer and turkey hunts for disabled hunters are available in Crawford County Area 1B, in northwest Pennsylvania, at the WCJ Ranch, 20397 N. Richmond Road, Cambridge Springs PA 16403-6834 Please call Shawn Schmitz in advance for an appointment at 814-724-1930.

Keystone PVA officers make the cases for vets on Capitol Hill



(Photo at left) Under the dome: Heading from the House side of the Capitol to the Senate side were President **Mark Rosensteel** and Vice President **Sean Ferry**. (Center photo) Mark stopped for a photo after meeting with Legislative Correspondent **Madeline Brodbeck** of Representative Lloyd Smucker's office. (Photo at right) Mark met with Legislative Assistant **Cole Adams** of Rep. Guy Reschenthaler's office to advance the House and Senate bills you can read more about on page 7.



(Photo at left) Mark met with Legislative Aide **Jolie Rosenberg** of Representative Summer Lee's office. (Middle photo) Sean Ferry and **Peter Townsend** met with Legislation Correspondent **Ryan Brannigan** of Rep. Rob Bresnahan's office. (Photo at right) **Noelle Dana**, Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Ryan Mackenzie, met with Mark in the Congressman's office.

2026 PRIORITY LEGISLATION



Bill#	Title	Description	Support
S. 3647	Disabled Veterans Dignity Act	Makes VA's Bowel and Bladder program a statutory requirement and standardizes processes, training, and procedures across the VA system, while also clarifying participation criteria and reimbursement rates.	✓
H.R. 6047	Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act	Increases the amount of Special Monthly Compensation for the most severely disabled veterans and raises survivor benefits.	✓
H.R. 6835/S. 3988	Veterans STAND Act	Ensures veterans with SCI/D receive consistent, comprehensive health evaluations and are considered for innovative treatments that could enhance their mobility, independence, and quality of life.	✓
H.R. 1685/S. 749	Justice for ALS Veterans Act	Ensures the surviving spouses of veterans who died of service-connected ALS are eligible for increased survivor benefits.	✓
H.R. 1364/S. 1726	Automotive Support Services to Improve Safe Transportation (ASSIST) Act	Clarifies the types of automotive adapted equipment that can be provided to disabled veterans as part of the VA's medical benefits package.	✓
H.R. 1288/S. 599	Driver Reimbursement Increase for Veteran Equity (DRIVE) Act	Increases veterans' mileage reimbursement rate for travel to approved health care appointments.	✓
H.R. 2036/S. 925	Credit for Caring Act	Creates a tax credit for family caregivers to address the significant financial impact of caregiving.	✓
H.R. 8490/S. 4396	Social Security Caregiver Credit Act	Allows eligible caregivers to earn Social Security credits for unpaid care for a family member with a disability.	✓
H.R. 2576/S. 1245	Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act	Improves the VA benefits process for survivors of military sexual trauma.	✓
H.R. 2055/S. 611	Caring for Survivors Act	Increases VA financial benefits for veterans' survivors.	✓
H.R. 7411/S. 3395	Mammography Access for Veterans Act	Authorizes VA's mammography telescreening pilot program permanently.	✓
H.R. 220	Veterans Infertility Treatment Act	Includes assisted reproductive technologies (like IVF) in the VA's medical benefits package.	✓
H.R. 2245/S. 1644 H.R. 3309	Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act/ Autonomy for All Disabled Veterans Act	Increases the VA's Home Improvements and Structural Alternations grant for home modifications for disabled veterans.	✓

Paralyzed Vets advocate for caregivers and selves

*Text continued
from page 1*

Over the following two days, they met with the Congressional staff in fourteen U.S. Representatives' offices on Capitol Hill to ask for support for 24 bills in the House and the Senate that focus strongly on support for veterans' families and caregivers, who are often the same.

The bills for which PVA and the Keystone chapter seek support are listed on page 7 with thumbnail descriptions of each.

"Keystone PVA will welcome the company of members who wish to advocate for these important bills," said Rosensteel. "Our work is not just a once-a-year trip to Washington, D.C. It's keeping in contact with our elected officials, who have oversight and funding responsibilities regarding the VA and veterans' benefits, and can make these bills become law."

The national PVA staff, especially those in the Government Relations Department, work year-around to prepare, work with other veterans service organizations, and work with Congressional officials. For everyone's benefit, they have prepared the 2026 PVA Policy Priorities booklet, which the Keystone chapter will be pleased to send to anyone on request, in print or digital form.

It's up to paralyzed veterans to emphasize the human consequences of enacting or not enacting this legislation. And the best way to do this is to contact your members of Congress in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. Keystone PVA officers and staff can help you do that, easily and with confidence. Call the chapter at 412-781-2474 and ask for the 2026 PVA Policy Priorities booklet.

What can a PVA National Service Officer do for you?

- Help you explore what benefits you may be entitled to
- Help you file a claim
- Answer questions about your VA benefits
- Advocate on your behalf in VA Benefits and VA Healthcare
- Provide information on various VA programs, loans and grants including but not limited to:
 - CHAMPVA health insurance
 - Dependent educational assistance (DEA)
 - Disability Housing grant
 - Automobile and Adaptive Equipment grants

See the list of PVA National Service offices and staff on page 14



The participants in the 2026 late Spring Bass Tournament gathered for a group photo after another enjoyable outing on the Monongahela River.

Registration forms for the Saturday, 05 September tournament, will be mailed out in early August.

You are invited to the **Annual Awards Banquet**
of the **Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America**
Thursday, 01 October 2026 at a NEW LOCATION:
Tesla's Ramada by Wyndham

139 Pittsburgh Road (Pa. Route 8), Butler PA 16001

Tesla's Ramada by Wyndham is 16 miles north of the former banquet location and just south of the city of Butler, Pa.

It is on the ground floor, level with the parking lot,
which surrounds the building.

The hotel shares the property with the Tesla Biohealing Resort,
which dominates the view from Pittsburgh Road/Route 8. The

sign pictured at the right is right in front of the property on
Route 8. When driving onto the property, the main entrance to
the hotel is on the left side of the building complex; a dedicated
ballroom entrance is on the right.



NEW mileage and lodging reimbursement policy

Life members attending the Annual Banquet may pick up a
form at the banquet or ask for one in advance to request
reimbursement for their travel to and from the banquet location
and for lodging if they are staying overnight at the Ramada.

Travel reimbursement: If a member resides
over 25 miles or more from the Ramada, they can be
reimbursed for the round trip at a rate of \$.60/mile.

Lodging reimbursement: If a life member resides
over 25 miles from the Ramada and wishes to stay over at the
Ramada, the chapter will reimburse the life member for the
room cost at the Ramada.

**Reception and registration
at 5:30 p.m.**

**Dinner at 6:30 p.m., followed by
installation of directors, presenta-
tion of awards, and drawing for
door prizes.**

This is not your reservation form.

When the reservation form is ready, it will be supplied in the next edition of The Parascopes and sent
as an email attachment. **We can send it to you directly by first class postal mail**—just give us a
call (412-781-2474) or request one by email, keystoneparavets@gmail.com.

Stay over and kick off the chapter's 2026-27 bowling season!

A tradition got started a few years ago when the chapter members who bowl decided to get together after the Annual
Awards Banquet to bowl together. Again in 2026, the chapter's bowlers will stay over at the Ramada in Butler and get
together the next day at the Family Bowlway Fun Center, 540 Fairground Hill Road, Butler PA 16001, just two miles
from the banquet hotel. If you don't bowl but are interested in the different ways to knock down pins, tag along the next
day and find out how easy it is to join the chapter's bowling league!

Elections for PVA Keystone Chapter directors

Voting members of the Keystone Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America have been sent the following slate of candidates for the Board, from which directors will be elected. Then, at the first Board meeting of the fiscal year, which is held in October, the directors will elect the officers from among themselves.

There are three seats for three-year terms opening at the end of this fiscal year. The Keystone PVA members who currently hold these seats are seeking re-election to them. These three seats expire on 30 September 2029.

There is also a vacant seat, the term of which ends on 30 September 2028.

Voting members are strongly encouraged to vote as soon as they receive their ballots by first class mail. Under no circumstances will “replacement” ballots be issued.

The ballot was mailed to all voting members by first class mail during the last week in June. Enclosed with the ballot were all candidacy statements and a return envelope. For a ballot to be valid:

- It must be marked according to the instructions enclosed.
- It must be returned in the return envelope provided.
- It must be returned to the Keystone PVA office through the United States Postal Service.
- It must be postmarked no later than 31 July 2026.

All ballots will be tabulated at the chapter office on 07 August 2026.

The results of the tabulation will be announced at the Membership Meeting on Saturday, 08 August 2026.

The results will also be reported in the September edition of *The Parascope*.

Candidates for Director for three three-year terms have prepared statements shown on the next page.



Keystone PVA Treasurer **Bill Jakovac**, with his wife, **Jean**, represented the chapter in the Latrobe, Pennsylvania Independence Day parade again this year.

Latrobe—the home of Arnold Palmer, Mister (Fred) Rogers, and so much more—turns out many thousands of spectators along its 3/4-mile parade route each year.

Members are welcome to participate in the parades that the chapter is invited to. Just let the chapter office know you are interested, and we can provide details.

Sean M. Ferry

I appreciate your consideration to elect me as a member of the Board of Directors for the Keystone Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America. I am a 55-year-old Air Force veteran who enjoys advocating for fellow veterans and participating in adaptive sports. I have participated in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games for the last five years. I enjoy making sure our government legislators are aware of the issues that mean the most to our veterans, whether they belong to the PVA or not. I have been a chapter member since 2021 and have been serving as our vice president since October 2022.

I was in the Security Police field until leaving the Air Force in 1991. I served in both Texas and Korea. Other than my military service, I have spent my entire life in Erie Pennsylvania. I am a member of the American Legion Post 285 in Waterford, Pennsylvania and a member of the United Spinal Grassroot Advocacy. I enjoy participating in spinal cord research programs and currently work with three different teams of scientists to help make lives better and safer for us all. I received an associate's degree in 2023 from the Erie County Community College. I've been married to my wife, Lynnette, for over 25 years. We are blessed with four children and currently six grandchildren. I was injured in 2014 after falling 12 feet while trying to build a deer stand, becoming a C4 quadriplegic. I have recently been elected as the new National Director to represent our chapter with the PVA national office. I enjoy the work I have been doing for the chapter and will continue to try to maintain a positive and encouraging attitude to promote the membership and reputation of our chapter.



William D. Lightner

I'm running for the Board of Directors (BOD) once again. I feel I would be a great candidate for the following reasons:

As your Board of Directors member, I bring lots of experience both on and off the BOD.

I've been with the Keystone PVA for nearly 30 years and served on the Board for many of those years in different positions, including Secretary and Vice President. I've had to make some tough decisions while on the board and I think that is very important as a Board Member.

I'm also the site leader for the James E Van Zandt VA Medical Center in Altoona Pa and have been for decades. I've received pins, plaques, and certificates for my volunteer hours, approximately 6500+.

Helping our members and all Veterans in one way or another gives me much pleasure.

I've also traveled to our Capitol for many years to be with the National PVA during the Advocacy Legislation Seminar and visited with our politicians to promote the PVA and talk about the National budget.

As you can see these are just a few reasons I would make a good board member for another term.

Thanks for your consideration and vote.



Peter K. Townsend Jr.

For the past three years, it has been my honor to serve Keystone Chapter as a member of the Board of Directors. During that time, I have served as the Chapter's Advocacy Director and have traveled to Washington D.C. along with other members of the board, to attend PVA's annual Legislative Advocacy Seminar. During our Congressional visits on Capitol Hill, I've had the opportunity to advocate for the interests of both the members of Paralyzed Veterans of America and their caregivers, as well as the interests of the broader disabled community. I continue to serve as the hospital liaison to the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center, where I volunteer as a Red Coat Ambassador and serve as the VAVS Representative. I also continue to serve as the chapter Point of Contact to the MS Committee at PVA National. Finally, I've had the opportunity to serve as the Board Secretary since the beginning of the 2026 Fiscal Year.



I greatly appreciate the trust that you have placed in me by allowing me to serve in this capacity and respectfully ask for your support in reelecting me to the board for an additional term.

Thank you for your consideration!

The statements herein are those of the candidates. Each candidate takes full responsibility for the content of his or her statement.

No member of the staff or member of the Board of Directors (other than said candidate who may be currently serving as a member of the Board) or Keystone PVA is responsible for the content of any candidate's statement.

We need to see your face!

The “Health and Recreation Points” system has been suspended, but members are strongly encouraged to engage in recreational and health-promoting activities, such as getting your annual SCI exam.

But to qualify for financial reimbursement for recreational activities, the chapter has instituted this rule:

Members are required to attend at least half of the chapter’s Membership Meetings prior to obtaining chapter sponsorship for participation in a recreational event, such as the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.

Attendance can be by Zoom or in person at the primary meeting location. There are six Membership Meetings in a year, so attending at least three meetings will fulfill the requirement.

The meetings must be attended in the 12 months PRIOR to making the sponsorship request.

The chapter has instituted this rule for two reasons: 1) To encourage our members to communicate with one another about issues that affect them, so that others may learn about opportunities, programs, challenges and more, and 2) to insure that the chapter’s leadership knows its members who request the chapter’s support. For more information on chapter programs, refer to Operations Manual Section 8, which you may request from the chapter office.



The VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System will again hold its annual art show for applied art and performing art on Wednesday, 26 August 2026. The art categories include Applied art, fine art, kits, dance, drama, music, and creative writing. The chapter can email you more information on request.

Contact people at the VAPHS are Krystal Neal for the applied arts, krystal.neal@va.gov, 412-822-3083, and for the performing arts, Allie Miller, alexandria.miller@va.gov, 412-822-3080.

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS

- ☛ All receipts submitted for reimbursement must be dated within the Chapter’s current fiscal year, 01 October–30 September.
- ☛ The Chapter has an annual picnic at Kennywood Amusement Park and an Annual Awards Banquet.
- ☛ Keystone PVA will reimburse voting members for their annual **resident hunting license**, with a limit of one (1) Antlerless Deer License annually. Member must send a copy of all licenses and a receipt to obtain reimbursement. The cost of a **resident fishing license** will be reimbursed. Members may also be reimbursed for their membership dues for sports club memberships.
- ☛ **Member Recreation Reimbursement Fund.** Keystone PVA will reimburse voting members up to \$100 for attending any recreational event one time during the fiscal year or until the fund is depleted. Member must send receipts within 30 days of the event to the chapter office including a short description of the outing; good photos appreciated. This benefit is intended for members who do not take advantage of reimbursements and chapter payments for hunting and fishing licenses, or participation in recreational programs such as the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.
- ☛ **Fitness club membership.** The Chapter will reimburse members quarterly for memberships in nonprofit or for-profit organizations such as the YMCA, YWCA, Planet Fitness or LA Fitness up to \$10 monthly or \$30 quarterly.
- ☛ **Weekly bowling league** available to members as a recreational activity and to practice for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG). Scores are in the newsletter and awards will be presented at the Chapter annual banquet.
- ☛ Reimbursement for hunting, shooting and fishing programs that Keystone PVA supports or sponsors.
- ☛ (Currently, this rule remains suspended.) Members that accumulate 12 points or more by attending membership meetings, attending Chapter functions, volunteering at VA medical centers, etc., qualify to participate in the Keystone PVA Sports and Recreation Program.
- ☛ All program expenses must be approved by the Keystone PVA Board of Directors.

Happy Birthdays!

If we missed your birthday, let us know!

Give us a ring at the chapter office,
800-775-9323,
if you spot an error.

Many happy wishes
to all our members,
associates,
and volunteers!

August

03 Carl F. Raymond
Robert Serena
04 Michael R. Eaton
06 William Zally Jr.
08 Jim Malanowski
12 David Gifford
Joseph Zimmet
Raymond Boea
13 Matthew Schmalzriedt
15 Daniel P. Smith
15 Loren Zamiska
17 David Lynch
18 Gary Martisofski
Ronald Speight
19 Kenneth R. Divens
Curtis H. Paschal
20 Robert Luke Liggett
21 Vincent Dvorak
24 Lester Neimiller
27 Derek E. Bruehl
28 Gregory Foster
29 Timothy Anick
30 Richard Anderson

September

03 Earl Corp
Robert Pamplin
05 Beth Duvall
Larry Spahr Jr.
07 Clarissa Congie
Steven R. Iman

08 Kathleen Kleinmann
Rody Rogers
Jesse Lyles
Gary L. Smith
09 Paula Schultz
12 William Ferguson Jr.
13 Stephen P. Lee
14 Barbara Plants
Todd R. Wallace
15 John B. Hofmeister
16 Leo Latona
17 Angelo Degree
18 Gary Egri
19 Fred Frank
Jack Zavilla
20 Rob Morris
Walter McGee
21 Jeffrey Hanlin Sr.
Michael S. Martin
23 Carol E. Reber
25 David Wingard

26 John Cotto
28 Richard Barbara
29 George E. Dye

October

01 Ray Mercalde
02 George Barton
04 Eric Kaag
05 Kurt Eisele
Jorden Jones
06 Timothy Reider
10 Dwaine Crytzer
Stanley Gillis
11 Michael Kiley
William Metzger
12 Jim Costello
13 Truman "Dick" Yohe
15 Russell Achilles
Jeffrey Campbell
Thomas Fix
18 Louise Wall
19 Gib Gutshall
20 Audra Lyons
23 Chad Evans
Robert Eyler
Kevin Lee
Mark Rosensteel
24 Victor Ramos
Patrick Schwabenbauer
Peter Townsend Jr.
25 Thomas Shaffer
26 Daniel Heffernan
Brooke Schmolly
27 Bruce Palmisano
31 John Kellner
Joseph Shaw

PHOTO CREDITS Photos from visit to Arlington and Washington taken by those in the Keystone PVA delegation.
Other photos were taken by staff, are file photos, or have been anonymously submitted.

ADVERTISING in THE PARASCOPE

The Parascope is published bi-monthly. Deadline for submission of ad copy for the September-October issue will be 15 August.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING: The charge is \$20.00 for 15 words (each additional word is \$.35). Your name and address or phone number counts as five words. CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR PAYMENT TERMS—412-781-2474.

REGULAR MEMBERS of Keystone PVA qualify for up to a quarter-page advertisement free of charge. Members' ads larger than a quarter-page will be half the price of the regular page. DISPLAY ADVERTISING RATES:

SIZE OF AD	One issue	Three issues	Six issues
1/8 page	\$ 20.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
1/4 page	\$ 40.00	\$100.00	\$180.00
1/2 page	\$ 80.00	\$200.00	\$360.00
Full page	\$160.00	\$400.00	\$720.00

Membership Report Tom Strang, Membership Officer

President Mark Rosensteel presided over the chapter's June Membership Meeting from the Erie VA Medical Center, where Vice President Sean Ferry and his wife Lynnette arranged for an in-person meeting, complete with lunch and a video link for other members to join from across the Commonwealth. Attendance was 26, 23 of whom were life members. Half of the attendees were at the Erie VAMC, and the other half joined by Zoom.

The next three Membership Meetings will all originate from the chapter office and will start at 10 a.m., all on Saturdays on 08 August, 10 October, and 12 December.

Details for attending the next Membership Meeting on Saturday, 08 August, are on the back page. This meeting is officially the chapter's annual corporate meeting, which is different from the Annual Awards Banquet. No official business is expected to be conducted, other than the announcement of the Board of Directors election results.

We welcome new Life Members—

*all communities are in Pennsylvania unless noted;
military branch is where each served:*

Frank Lorenzo of Belle Vernon, Fayette County, Navy.

Erik J. Cussen of Washington, New Jersey, Navy.

And we mourn the passing of Life Members

David L. Kleinfelter of Mount Joy, Lancaster County on 31 March 2026. He served in the Air Force, was a PVA member for 27 years and a Keystone Chapter member since 2010.

Greg Hartlaud of Elizabethtown, Lancaster County on 24 March 2026. He served in the Air Force, was a Keystone Chapter member for a year.

Danny Steele of Bethel Park, Allegheny County, on 30 May 2026. He served in the Air Force. He was a Keystone Chapter member for a year and a half.

UNDELIVERABLES — MIAs

Have you seen or know the whereabouts of the following members? They may be dropped from the PVA Membership Roster unless we can find them. Please call us, write or e-mail the chapter office if you are able to help. Contact information for the chapter is on the back page.

Timothy J. Anick, Anthony L. Barton, Joseph M. Kostich, Raymond K. Lookart, Curtis H. Pascal, William E. Shingler, and Joseph D. Zimmett

MEMBERSHIP TOTALS AS OF 07 JULY 2026

Service connected	166
Non-service connected	<u>89</u>
TOTAL	255
Annual Associate Members	16
Lifetime Associate Members	<u>70</u>
TOTAL	86

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICES

for members in Pennsylvania and western and central New York State:

Western Pennsylvania: Pittsburgh, 412-395-6255

1000 Liberty Avenue, Room 1602, Pittsburgh PA 15222

Justin Platt and Christopher Custer, National Service Officers; **Marissa Sabatucci**, Administrative Assistant

Eastern Pennsylvania: Philadelphia, 215-381-3057

5000 Wissahickon Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19144

Joseph Weeks, Area Manager; **Violet Graham**, Senior Administrative Assistant

Western New York: Buffalo, 716-857-3353

130 S. Elmwood Avenue, Suite 621, Buffalo NY 14202

Matthew Wezka, National Service Officer II; **Victoria Gawne**, Administrative Assistant II

Central New York State: Syracuse, 315-425-4400, ext. 53317

800 Irving Avenue, Room C419, Syracuse NY 13210

Charles Tocci, Senior Benefits Advocate

Big red boxes and small green boxes support Keystone Paralyzed Veterans



This red donation box is at a small shopping plaza on Lebanon Road (Pa. Route 885) in West Mifflin, Allegheny County, Pa., near Allegheny County Airport and a GetGo convenience store. Thanks to the property owner for hosting a donation box!

American Thrift Center has made the Keystone Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America the sole beneficiary of its work, donating a significant percentage of its gross revenue to the chapter. Each of its over 800 donation boxes in western Pennsylvania is marked to show that our veterans benefit from those donations.

If you have gently-used household items you would like to donate, and they are a bit too cumbersome to take to a collection box, call American Thrift at 412-469-9663 to arrange a pickup. You can also find out what goods they can accept.

If you have donated, *thank you!*

AMERICAN THRIFT CENTER

Quality Pre-Owned
Merchandise

**Village Shopping Center
1806 Homeville Road
West Mifflin, PA 15122
412-469-9665 or 412-469-9663**

The American Thrift Center has been a professional fundraiser for Keystone PVA since 1990. Keystone PVA members are cordially invited to visit our store. Lifetime voting members: Present your PVA membership card and receive a 50% discount on all purchases.

**Also, by donating items to
the American Thrift Center
you are supporting
Keystone PVA!**

Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America is most grateful for voluntary donations from the generous public.

Army green boxes made from ammunition cans have been placed at supportive businesses in southwestern Pennsylvania, and generous customers have responded! The boxes are numbered, security tagged and sealed, then placed on the businesses' counters to accept bills and coins. Personnel from Keystone PVA periodically exchange the boxes.

Any business that wishes to host a box or any member who wishes to assist in placing and retrieving the boxes can contact the chapter for more information, 412-781-2474.





Keystone Chapter

1113 Main Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15215-2407

Phone 412-781-2474 or 800-775-9323

Fax 412-781-2659

www.kpva.org

keystoneparavets@gmail.com

VA MEDICAL CENTERS

*VAVS representatives serve veterans at these
VA Medical Centers on behalf of the
Keystone Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans.*

James E. Van Zandt VAMC

2907 Pleasant Valley Boulevard

Altoona PA 16602-4377

877-626-2500

William D. Lightner—VAVS
Representative

Abie Abraham VA Healthcare System

353 N. Duffy Road

Butler PA 16001

800-362-8262

John Kellner—VAVS Representative

Erie VAMC

135 E. 38th Street

Erie PA 16504-1559

800-274-8387

John Larese—VAVS Representative
Sean Ferry, Rex Nichols—
Deputy Representatives

Lebanon VAMC

1700 S. Lincoln Avenue

Lebanon PA 17042-7529

800-409-8771

Chris Fidler—VAVS Representative

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

University Drive campus

University Drive C

Pittsburgh PA 15240

800-309-8398

H. John Heinz III campus

1010 Delafield Road

Pittsburgh PA 15215-1802

800-309-8398

Wilkes-Barre VAMC

1111 East End Boulevard

Wilkes-Barre PA 18711-0030

570-824-3521

Peter Townsend—VAVS Representative



The next Keystone PVA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

will be on **Saturday, 08 AUGUST 2026**
MEETING TIME: **10:00 a.m.**

*Primary site: Keystone PVA offices,
1113 Main Street, Sharpsburg
(Pittsburgh PA 15215)*

Join by Zoom videoconference.

Members who reside outside southwestern
Pennsylvania are invited to join online via the
Zoom link that will be emailed to members.

*(The chapter will not reimburse travel to and
from the event for attendees.)*

If attending in person PLEASE

RSVP by 31 July 2026

to 412-781-2474 or 800-775-9323

The mission of Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America is

to improve the quality of life of paralyzed veterans by

- Encouraging and supporting spinal cord injury and disease research;
- Improving access to health care and other veterans' benefits;
- Assisting in the expansion of opportunities in wheelchair sports and recreation; and
- Advocating for the rights of disabled people, including the reduction and elimination of barriers to accessibility and mobility.

Articles published in The Parascopes, even by officers and directors, do not necessarily reflect the views of the Keystone Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America. Keystone PVA neither endorses nor guarantees any of the products or services described or mentioned in The Parascopes.