



THE PARASCOPE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE KEYSTONE CHAPTER OF THE
PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

VOLUME XX, ISSUE 1

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2022

Tests for COVID-19: What do you need? What are you able to get?

Even for those who feel relatively safe, the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic remains a wet blanket over our everyday actions, over our economy, and over our lives.

And according to the Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 “dashboard,” as of this writing (late January 2022), over 866,000 deaths in the United States have been attributed to COVID-19. (coronavirus.jhu.edu)

The Paralyzed Veterans of America exists solely to improve the quality of life of paralyzed veterans, so along those lines, the Keystone Chapter would like to know if we can provide our members with assistance in obtaining COVID-19 tests.

By the time you receive this, the federal government’s program to send four test kits to each household that requests them will be underway (COVIDtests.gov). But is that enough?

There’s a lot to be said for continuing to wear masks when in indoor congregant spaces (grocery and retail stores, for example) or riding with others in private or public vehicles; for distancing (especially staying out of crowds), and for lots of handwashing and hand sanitizing.

But no matter how confident you may feel about your own

Continued on page 2



Members of the Keystone Paralyzed Veterans in the Lebanon County region enjoy their annual visit to the Lebanon County Career and Technical Center for a Christmas lunch served by students in the culinary program.

From the lower right, going clockwise around the table are **William Hoffman, Justin McGarrity, Joe Dunn, Chris Fidler, Joe Weeks, Pamela Johnson, Ken Walters, Brandon VanderBrook, Chris Likes, Constance Snaveley, Ann Zimmerman and Beverly Hoffman.**

Next Membership Meeting will be by **videoconference** on Saturday, 12 February 2022. See back page

Keystone Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America

President

Mark O. Rosensteel

Vice President

Bill Lightner

Secretary

Dane R. Smith

Treasurer

William D. Jakovac

Directors

Joseph A. Dunn

Sean M. Ferry

Chris Fidler

David B. Gifford

Tom Strang

Advocacy Director

To be named

Fundraising Coordinator

Bill Jakovac

Hospital Visit Coordinator

Chris Fidler

Legislative Director

Chris Fidler

Membership Officer

Tom Strang

Service Officer

To be named

Sports Director

Dane R. Smith

Volunteer Coordinator

Agnes Strang

National Director

William D. Jakovac

Executive Director

Joseph W. Dornbrock

Membership and Program

Assistant

Marisa Markowitz

Bookkeeper

Nancy Campbell

National Service Officers

*Currently vacant: see page 15
for other Service Officers*

1000 Liberty Ave., Rm. 1602

Pittsburgh PA 15222

Phone 412-395-6255

Toll free 800-795-3629

Fax 412-395-6266

Joseph Weeks, NSO

Violet A. Graham,

Accredited Administrator

5000 Wissahickon Avenue

Philadelphia PA 19144

Phone 215-381-3057

Toll free 800-795-3628

Pandemic update: office visit guidelines

Limited visitation to the chapter office is now permissible by fully vaccinated members and with advanced notice. Those visits should be brief and business only.

Unannounced/unvaccinated visitors will be met in the parking lot. If a visit does not have to be made in person, please use email, phone, or arrange for a Zoom call.

What members need to know about travel reimbursement

Generally, there are two categories of reimbursement that the chapter makes to its members: **Business** reimbursements and **recreation** reimbursements.

A member who engages in a preapproved activity on behalf of the chapter, such as visiting a VA medical center to attend a VA voluntary services meeting, is engaged in a “**business**” activity. That travel is eligible for reimbursement at a rate set periodically by the Board of Directors.

A member who participates in an optional, personal recreational activity, such as hunting, bowling, or attending a sporting event, is engaged in a “**recreation**” activity.

Mileage reimbursement requests for recreation activities will only be approved if the travel reimbursement was approved in advance of the event by the chapter Board of Directors. Two examples: Travel to the bowling alley to bowl will not be reimbursed. But the sponsorship for attending the National Veterans Wheelchair Games specifically includes reimbursement for travel (or, in the case of the Games, air travel may be paid in advance by the chapter).

All reimbursement requests should be made at one time each month, prior to the 7th of the month, using the chapter’s Volunteer Expense Report, which may be requested from the office in electronic or paper form. Completed forms can be returned the same ways.

A member should NEVER assume that any reimbursement is guaranteed. None are guaranteed, and all reimbursements must be approved by the Board of Directors.

At this time, the rules for reimbursement in the chapter’s Operations Manual are being revised for clarity, consistency, and as much specificity as possible. Thanks to members for your understanding and patience.

Tests for COVID-19: What do you need? *Continued from page 1*

health, you probably don’t want to risk carrying the virus where it may be transmitted to other more vulnerable individuals. That’s when a test kit may come in handy to assure yourself and others that you are not a virus carrier.

So, to help the chapter figure out if we might be able to help you obtain COVID-19 test kits, we have three questions:

- 1) If you had easy access to COVID-19 test kits, would you use them?
(Probable responses: yes or no)
- 2) Are you comfortable ordering test kits online?
(Probable responses: yes, no, or I don’t use a computer or “smart” phone)
- 3) If you do want test kits and can order them, and the four kits you can get free from the federal government aren’t enough, would you like to be reimbursed for any costs of extra kits?
(Probable responses: yes, yes if they cost a lot, or no)

You can call us (412-781-2474 or 800-775-9323) or send us an e-mail to tell us what you think. We will send this same message to members by e-mail, for your convenience.

The information you give us will help determine next steps—thanks!

2022 Events and Meetings, Keystone Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America

Some dates are subject to change. Some events, such as Membership Meetings, are held on properties other than the chapter offices and may be relocated with little notice. Members should contact the chapter office, 412-781-2474 or 800-775-9323, to confirm dates and locations.

Membership Meetings

All Saturdays, and all will be available to members via Zoom videoconferencing. The Zoom link will go “live” at 12:30 p.m., and the meetings will start at 12:45 p.m., and will usually conclude by 2 p.m. Meeting in person later in the year will depend on the availability of “open” facilities.

Dates: 12 February, 09 April, 11 June, 13 August, 15 October, and 10 December

Board of Directors meetings

All Thursdays, all at 11 a.m. via Zoom. Limited attendance at the chapter office will be considered.

20 January, 17 February, 17 March, 21 April, 19 May, 16 June,

21 July, 18 August, 15 September, 20 October, 17 November, 15 December.

Events

Buckeye Games (virtual)	9 - 19 May	At-home; in partnership with Buckeye PVA
Bass Tournament (late spring)	12 June	American Legion Post 940, W. Brownsville, Pa.
Kennywood Picnic	July (exact day TBD)	Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, Pa.
Bass Tournament (late summer)	10 September	American Legion Post 940, W. Brownsville, Pa.
Annual Banquet	06 October	Hampton Banquet Hall, Gibsonia, Pa.
Veterans' Day	11 November	Various activities around Pennsylvania

National Paralyzed Veterans of America events

Advocacy / Legislative Seminar	07 - 11 March	Virtual meetings via Zoom
PVA Annual Convention	14 - 18 May	Omni Atlanta Hotel at CNN Center, Atlanta, Georgia
Nat'l Veterans Wheelchair Games	07 - 12 July	Tempe, Arizona
PVA Fall BOD Meeting	22 - 24 October	Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, Florida

Office holiday closures

Office closures do not necessarily fall on the actual or observed day of the holiday

President's Day: 21 February (Monday)

Memorial Day: 30 May (Monday)

Independence Day: 04 July (Monday; office also closed 05 July)

Labor Day: 05 September (Monday)

Columbus Day: 10 October (Monday)

Veterans Day: 11 November (Friday)

Thanksgiving: 24 November (Thursday; office also closed 25 November)

Christmas: Office closed 23 - 26 December, Friday through Monday

New Year's: Office closed 30 December - 02 January, Friday through Monday



WESTARM
PHYSICAL THERAPY
& HOME HEALTH
724-337-6522

2021 BEST OF THE TRI-STATE WINNER

Your Hometown Physical Therapists for over 40 years

Lower Burrell • Leechburg • New Kensington
Kittanning • Cheswick • Sarver • Vandergrift
Home Health

Sports & Recreation Dane Smith, Sports Director

National Veterans Wheelchair Games

Pandemic issues have already changed the conditions under which the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Tempe, Arizona this July will be held. Initial planning caused some events, such as air rifle competition, to be held “at home,” that is, not in Tempe. But COVID-19 mitigation rules have been put in place, restricting some of the activities that our athletes have come to expect.

The best way to keep up with the changes is to get on the monthly “Coaches Calls,” which are NOT limited to coaches! Every third Wednesday at 2 p.m. Eastern Time, the VA and the PVA national offices hold an informational call, by video and

by phone, that lasts between 40 minutes and an hour. When the chapter office receives the notification of the “call,” that information will be forwarded to all of our athletes interested in attending. Do not count on someone else knowing everything about the Games. Get the information you need first-hand.

Buckeye Games go virtual

Our neighbor to the west, the Buckeye Chapter in Ohio, has decided to make the 2022 edition of the Buckeye Games online again. Yes, the pandemic. The date has also been changed, from late April to 09-19 May 2022. The Buckeye chapter will forward the e-mail registration to the chapter, and we’ll forward it to our members.

Hunting and Fishing Events Tom Strang, Associate Sports Director

Two Bass Tournaments in 2022! Tom Strang and Larry Freeman announce the dates of TWO Bass Tournaments in 2022: on Sunday, 12 June, and Saturday, 10 September. More to come.

Hunts at the WCJ Ranch for deer and turkey for disabled hunters are available in Crawford County area 1B, northwest Pennsylvania, at the WCJ Ranch, 20397 North Richmond Road, Cambridge Springs, Pa. 16403-6834. The ranch features wheelchair stands. Please call Shawn Schmitz in advance for an appointment, 814-720-2500.

Hunting with the Wounded Warriors of Western Pennsylvania (WWWPa). Deer hunting for disabled hunters in Washington County (Pa.) Area 2B is sponsored by the WWWPa. Scott Gregory, president of WWWPa, invites disabled veterans to hunt deer, turkey, pheasant, and coyote. The WWWPa also sponsors an early antlerless deer hunt in October. For more information go to wpawoundedwarrior.org.

(Editor’s note: WWWPa is not affiliated with the Wounded Warriors Project.)

Fishing with Healing Waters – Attend rod building and fly tying classes, and participate in fishing outings. For information contact Amanda Thompson, 412-877-7864.

Bow and Crossbow Big Game Hunts for disabled hunters Join the Physically Challenged Bowhunters of America, Inc; many sponsored hunts are listed in its newsletter. To join, go online at www.pcba-inc.org.

Wyoming Disabled Hunters offers elk and deer hunts near Cody, Wyoming To apply, call 304-899-0790 or go to www.wyomingdisabledhunters.org.

For fishing and hunting in Pennsylvania, a valid Pennsylvania hunting or fishing license is required. Life members should keep their hunting or fishing license and/or hunting licenses receipts so Keystone PVA can reimburse them.

Members who hunt, fish or engage in other interesting outdoor activities: Photos of you and your catch or you in action are welcome in digital format with a complete description: who what, why, where, when and how. Sorry, we won’t accept low-quality photos or referrals to other web sites or services. Send us an e-mail with a good, attached photo.

You can bowl near home

Even though the new bowling year is underway, you can still participate. If you have nearby bowling lanes and you can get there, you can bowl! The chapter’s bowlers all go to nearby bowling emporiums, roll up to three games a week, and send their receipts to the chapter monthly to get reimbursed. Call Bill Jakovac, 412-916-9261, or Mark Rosensteel, 724-875-1086, to learn more about getting started.

2021-22 season Keystone PVA bowling scores						
Reported as of December 2021. Bowling year: 01 Oct – 30 Sep						
	High Game	High Series	High Average	Strikes	Games	Average
Sean Ferry	199	475	158	30	21	149
Bill Jakovac	151	341	113	4	3	113
John Kellner	174	426	142	81	74	127
Mark Rosensteel	198	585	166	25	9	174

More Poster and Poem Contest winners recognized

Continuing from the last issue of The Parascoper, here is more about the poster division winners of the 2021-22 school year edition of the PVA Poster and Poem Contest, as held in Pennsylvania by the Keystone chapter. The poems will be in the next issue.



Lillian Amber, a second-grader at the Hatfield Elementary School in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, was the winner of the 1st-2nd grade poster division of the annual Poster and Poem Contest. She is with her teacher, **Jessica Kodric**, and Keystone PVA Treasurer and National Director **Bill Jakovac**. Jessica's entry is shown at top left.

The poster at the bottom left was submitted by fourth-grader **Brooke Yates** of the Franklin Elementary School in the Uniontown Area, and the poster below was submitted by **Molly Marcinek**, her classmate. They shared the top honors in the 3rd-4th grade poster division.



Membership Report Tom Strang, Membership Officer

Our Membership Meetings, for the foreseeable future, will continue to be held by Zoom videoconference. The good news is that members from distant locations can much more easily join the meeting.

The 11 December 2021 meeting drew 19 members. The next meeting will be on Saturday, 12 February 2022. The “call” will go “live” at 12:30 p.m. and President Mark Rosensteel will call it to order at 12:45 p.m. The meeting usually lasts a little more than an hour. If you have a topic you wish to discuss, call the office to get it on the agenda.

MEMBERSHIP TOTALS as of 31 December 2021

Service connected	125
Non-service connected	106
TOTAL	231

Annual Associate Members	8
Lifetime Associate Members	64
TOTAL	72

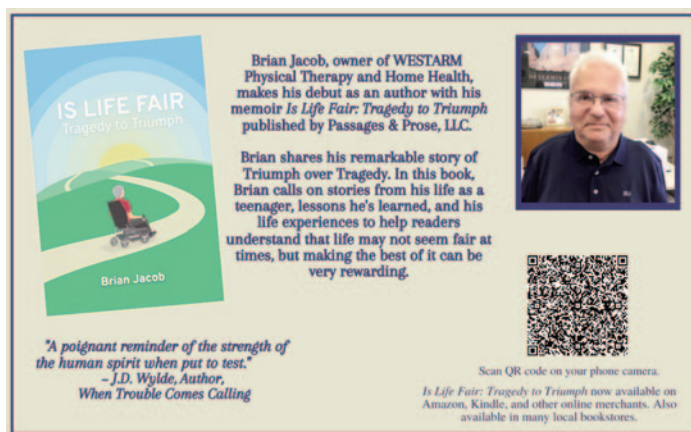
We welcome our new member

James D. Fritz, Apollo, Pa., Army veteran

We mourn the passing of these members

Fred P. Abercrombie, New Kensington, Pa., Air Force veteran, two-year member, on 01 November 2021

William J. Shaw, Pittsburgh, Pa., Army veteran, 24-year member, on 16 December 2021



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.
- **Social Activity Reimbursement:** Keystone PVA will reimburse voting members* up to \$100.00 one time during a fiscal year for the expenses of attending a social activity of these types:
 - Dinner at a sit-down restaurant
 - Movie theater, live theater, concert, or sporting performance
 - Museum, zoo, amusement park or cultural/historic attraction.Member must send request for reimbursement, with receipts, within 30 days of the event to the chapter office including a short description of the outing. If convenient, send a photo of the event, with a complete description, by e-mail to the office for its use in promotion of the chapter's programs.
**This benefit is intended for the use of life members who do not and will not participate in any other sponsored or reimbursed sports and recreation activities paid for by the chapter except for the Kennywood Park Picnic and Annual Awards Banquet. Should a member use this benefit and then claim reimbursement for another activity paid for by the chapter other than the picnic or dinner, the chapter may request repayment of the Social Activity Reimbursement.*
- The Chapter currently has a 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. The Chapter may also reimburse members for other activities offered at the NVWG such as trapshooting and archery.
- Reimbursement for hunting, trapshooting and fishing programs that Keystone PVA supports or sponsors.
- 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.

Keystone Chapter Health and Recreation Points System

To be eligible for chapter sponsorship to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games and other recreational programs, a member may earn points by participating in these activities. Sponsorship by the chapter requires 12 points per EACH event.

Attendance at a Keystone PVA membership meeting	3 points
<i>NOTE: Earning these points required a member to attend a Membership Meeting "in person" at one of the meeting sites designated. Attending by phone did not count until attendance by teleconference phone became necessary due to restrictions forced by the COVID-19 pandemic. So until further notice, and though opportunities to use the points are also limited by the pandemic, calling in from home or other non-designated meeting location will earn three points per meeting for a member.</i>	
Attendance at a Keystone PVA membership activity, e.g., Easter Bag distribution, Fish for Fun, Kennywood Picnic, Annual Awards Banquet	2 points
Return SCI Survey following Annual SCI Appointment	2 points
Volunteer at a V.A. Hospital (4 hours or more)	2 points
Volunteer for Keystone PVA (4 hours or more)	2 points
Work out at V.A. or Rehab center with coach or therapist	1 point
Participate in a Keystone PVA sponsored sports or recreational activity, e.g., bowling, fishing, hunting, trapshoot, etc.	1 point
Sign up a regular voting member	2 points
Represent Keystone PVA at community functions, e.g., Sharing and Caring, Soldiers & Sailors, United Cerebral Palsy, Veteran Support Groups	2 points
Ride, walk or roll in a Veterans Day Parade	3 points

- ☛ Members are required to attend at least one Membership Meeting prior to attending a sponsored event.
- ☛ To receive credit for mileage, volunteer time & points, member MUST forward a Time Sheet—Volunteer Program Report (formerly titled the “Keystone PVA Volunteer Expense Voucher”) and an After Action Report to the chapter office by the close of business on the 7th day of the following month. If the office is closed on the 7th, expense vouchers are due by the close of business the next working day.
- ☛ All volunteers at the VA Medical Centers must complete volunteer training and receive a volunteer ID card. The volunteer hours MUST be in the name of PVA. Volunteer is responsible for forwarding the monthly VA Volunteer by Organization Report (VS26) to the chapter office by the end of the following month to receive travel expenses.

More comprehensive information on chapter programs is in the chapter's Operations Manual Section 8. A copy was sent to each member some time ago; parts of it have been updated, so if you need a copy, please call the office.

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Lifetime membership is **free** and there are **no dues required** for qualified **veterans** who apply to the Chapter for membership.

Our newsletter no longer includes a membership application, but online application can be made at the national PVA web site, **pva.org**. For help, call the office, 412-781-2474 or 800-775-9323.

Life membership in the PVA is available to any U.S. citizen who served on **active duty** in the Armed Forces of the United States and who sustained **spinal cord dysfunction** because of traumatic injury or disease. Separation from military service must have been under other than dishonorable conditions.

The Life Member receives all benefits according to the Bylaws of the Chapter of record and has equal voting rights with the other members. The Life Member is also entitled to attend Chapter meetings, hold office at the Chapter and National levels and receive PN Magazine, chapter publications and bulletins from the National Office. In order to hold office, however, the Life Member must receive certification from PVA's National Secretary.

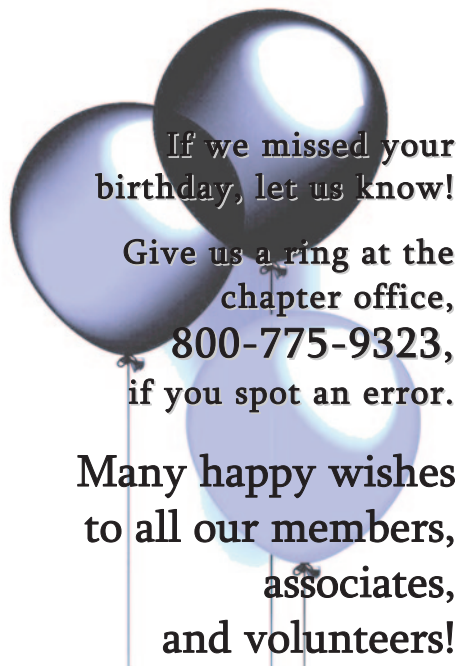
Happy Birthdays!

February

01 Doris J. Merrill
 02 Laurence Q. Pates
 06 William R. Lint
 07 Marvin Vought
 08 Frank Lowe
 Rexford Nichols
 Lawrence Smith
 09 Mary Amaditz
 10 Linda Berty
 11 Kenneth S. Anderson
 Edward Gabler
 Michael Sims
 Richard Townsend
 15 John H. Conrad
 16 Kurt Feathers
 17 Joseph L. Renaldi
 18 William J. Anderson, Jr.
 19 Mark Clipper, Sr.
 20 Thomas A. Strang
 William W. Wheaton
 22 Joseph G. Jenkins
 25 Rosemary Akers
 27 Frank Kenesky
 28 Donald Corson
 Suzanne M. Frye

March

03 Gerald Jordan
 04 Clifford Bateson
 05 William Jackson



09 Raymond Weigand
 13 Gordon Geer
 14 Nevin Maurer
 17 Stephen Bickel
 18 James D. Simmons
 20 Patrick Bush
 Norman Eicher
 21 Bill Jakovac
 24 Michael Crow
 Jeanne Keenan
 William Shingler
 25 Jeffrey Whitman

27 Gary Jenkins
 29 Randall E. Moyer
 31 John Berkavich

April

01 Robert Christman
 02 Teresa Crow
 03 Mona Gutshall
 04 Christine Lieberman
 07 Sandra Saffel
 08 Frank Steck
 10 Richard Mazzur
 12 Stanley Adams
 13 Danny P. Cullen
 16 Kenneth Lott
 17 Lynnette Ferry
 19 Edward Bosak
 21 Alicia Pastva
 23 Robert Coret
 Joseph A. Dunn
 24 Ronald S. Nemchik Jr.
 Carl Shenk Jr.
 25 David L. Fry
 26 Christopher Burtch
 Daniel Cillo
 Tara Lightner
 George Neelan
 28 Allen C. Myers
 Fred Penzenstadler
 30 Nathan Dozier
 Nick Gallick

ADVERTISING in THE PARASCOPE

The Parascope is published bi-monthly. Deadline for submission of advertising is usually the 15th day of the month prior to the cover date, but because this issue has gone out later than usual, advertising for the issue for March-April will be due by 15 March.

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

Donation box tucked away in Moon Township



This large donation box is nestled between some other containers in the parking lot of the Moon Township (Allegheny County, Pa.) Walmart. But it's there if you need it!

As always, many thanks to the businesses and institutions that host these collection boxes! Donate at this or the other red boxes, or call **412-469-9663** for pickup, especially if you have a lot to donate. This second-hand goods donation program is based, organized and operated only in Pennsylvania, and benefits only the programs of the Keystone Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America. And for that, Keystone Paralyzed Veterans thanks American Thrift Center owner/operator Jim Zeik and his hard-working staff!

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 Paralyzed Veterans since 1990.

Keystone PVA members are cordially invited to visit our store.

Life 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 our
paralyzed veterans!**

PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS HOMES



Delaware Valley Veterans' Home, Phila., 215-856-2718
Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center, Scranton, 570-961-4348
Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home, Hollidaysburg, 814-696-5352
Pennsylvania Soldiers' & Sailors' Home, Erie, 814-878-4917
Southeastern Veterans' Center, Spring City, 610-948-2406
Southwestern Veterans' Center, Pittsburgh, 412-665-6782

We are here to make you feel at home!



Visit dmva.pa.gov and click on Veterans Homes.

A Tub With A Door Inc

Affordable walk-in tubs &
wheelchair accessible
showers

10% savings from the HISA
grant will be used at the veterans
discretion

Visit us at
www.tubwithadoor.com
for more details

570 872 2648

Annual report, fiscal year 2021

This report
features the
independent
auditor's letter
on page 13.



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Keystone Chapter

The Keystone PVA Board of Directors, 2021



Mark O. Rosensteel
President
Apollo, Pennsylvania
phone 724-478-4805



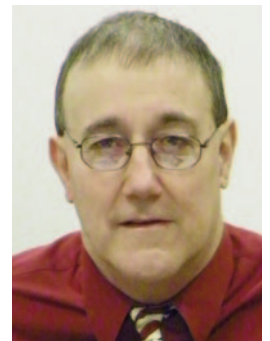
William D. Lightner
Vice President
Hollidaysburg,
Pennsylvania
phone 814-317-7654



Dane R. Smith
Secretary
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
phone 412-512-6295



William D. Jakovac
Treasurer
Glenshaw, Pennsylvania
phone 412-487-2422



James E. Riemer
Immediate Past President
Butler, Pennsylvania
Deceased 12 Oct 2021



Sean M. Ferry
Erie, Pennsylvania
phone 814-790-4225



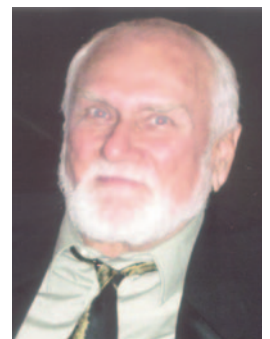
Chris Fidler
Jonestown, Pennsylvania
phone 717-865-0009



David B. Gifford
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
phone 412-779-6629



Bryan S. McCrickerd
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
No longer on the Board



Tom Strang
Canonsburg,
Pennsylvania
phone 724-745-1861

Not pictured: Kenneth "Steve" Anderson, Erie, Pennsylvania, who is no longer on the Board

To provide for easy communication with members of the Board, the officers and directors are providing their home telephone numbers. They ask that people respect the opportunity and first try to reach them through the Chapter office.

President's Report for Fiscal Year 2021 . . . Mark Rosensteel

As president of the Keystone Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, it is my privilege to report to you the progress we have made under the conditions we had to adjust to. This annual report covers the fiscal year from 01 October 2020 through 30 September 30, 2021. Immediately before and after this specific period of time, we lost valued Board members and past presidents Jerry "Bull" Baylor (August 2020) and James Riemer (October 2021). Jim was my immediate predecessor as chapter president, but he held several other important posts over his 28 years of membership, including treasurer and national director. Jim was quiet, but his actions spoke of his commitment to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, and his integrity as he helped the chapter navigate from near insolvency to relative financial comfort, and through financial challenges that have resulted in conservative but productive investments.

Two new Board members, Sean Ferry and Joe Dunn, are welcome additions under the sad occasions of Bull's and Jim's departures.

Due to the restrictions from the COVID-19 our volunteer members have not been able to visit our fellow veterans as they normally would. But in some of the VA hospitals some activities are still available to the veterans with some modifications, and we are providing support for them. Activities such as bingo games and pizza parties are still being maintained in the Erie, Altoona and Lebanon VA medical centers.

Fortunately we were still able to hold some outdoor events. Our annual Kennywood Park picnic had a decent turnout of members, families and caregivers. We were also able to hold the annual Bass Tournament with the usual disabled anglers and boat captains. I enjoyed it enormously and during the tournament I discussed having two fishing events a year with Greene County BassMasters

President Larry Freeman, who arranges for the bass boats and captains. We agreed to have two Bass Tournaments in 2022.

For the second year we were unable to hold our Annual Awards Banquet in person, but we did the next best thing, which was to hold it virtually. Door prize tickets were drawn to give away gift cards to those who attended, and those who attended were provided gift cards to have dinner at a restaurant of their choice. My hope is that by October 2022 we will hold the annual banquet in person.

Keystone PVA's mission is not only to provide activity and benefits to our members, but to also keep a watchful eye on the health care our veterans receive, frequently from the VA at VA medical centers. When we become aware of any factor, issue or event that might jeopardize the care our paralyzed veterans might get, we endeavor to work with all parties involved to reach a resolution. Obviously, no one speaks for paralyzed veterans as well as we do, but the consequences of our work goes far beyond our membership, improving care for non-paralyzed veterans and even paralyzed civilians.

As most of you know we have been holding our bi-monthly Membership Meetings via Zoom videoconferencing, which has allowed people with Internet access to attend from greater distances than was true before. We have held so many routine meetings of the chapter—Board of Directors meetings, for example—via videoconference that we have equipped our chapter's conference room with a large screen and high-definition camera. We expect to use this means of meeting in conjunction with in-person get-togethers even after the pandemic eases—"hybrid" meetings.

Demonstrable financial integrity is essential for a nonprofit organization. When the office was restaffed in August, one of the new employees—actually a contract worker, Nancy



President Mark Rosensteel (front), with chapter members Dwaine Crytzer (medium blue shirt) and Sean Ferry (red shirt), enjoyed a fishing cruise on Lake Erie in June 2021 courtesy of At The Lake Ministries of the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Campbell—was an experienced accountant, familiar with the recording and reporting needs of a smaller organization. Also hired was Marisa Markowitz, who is learning how to manage membership and projects. Both of them are part of the financial management structure, which makes five people total involved in the chapter's everyday financial activity.

During FY 2021, Joe Dornbrock remained the chapter executive director. He has been on the job for us since 2005, and continued to work with other PVA chapters as the treasurer for the Association of Chapter Executive Directors and the Association of Chapter Government Relations Directors.

Membership

Military veterans who have a spinal cord injury or spinal cord disease, and who were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions are welcome to join the Paralyzed Veterans of America free of charge.

At the end of FY2021, the Keystone chapter had 232 life members, 126 with service connected spinal cord dysfunctions and 106 non-service connected.

It is important for current members to keep the chapter informed of changes to addresses, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers to keep in touch. And, as always, Keystone PVA's membership lists will not be shared outside the PVA. **This chapter will not sell membership lists.**

Keystone PVA also offers associate memberships to individuals who do not have a spinal cord injury or disease. The dues for associate membership are \$25.00 per year. Lifetime associate membership is available for a one-time fee of \$250.00.

Over 800 donation boxes are located all over the Pittsburgh Region!



Most of the 800-plus donation boxes placed around southwestern Pennsylvania that benefits Keystone PVA are red, and look like one of the two examples shown here.

American Thrift Center manages and collects the contents of the boxes, and operates a thrift store in West Mifflin, Pa.

It is registered as a fundraising organization with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Its only beneficiaries are the Keystone Paralyzed Veterans.

We strongly suggest that those who have gently-used home furnishings, clothing and shoes donate them to the American Thrift Center, whose second-hand-goods store is in the Village Shopping Center, 1806 Homeville Road,

West Mifflin PA 15122. For pickup of larger items in Southwestern Pennsylvania, call the American Thrift Center at 412-469-9663, or place clothing and shoes in one of the over 800 red donation boxes.

Members who have passed on to the Eternity Chapter

FY 2021 : 01 October 2020 to 30 September 2021

All towns are in Pennsylvania except where noted:

George Bungard Jr., Warsaw, Va., 01 October 2020
Roberta M. Bell, Pittsburgh, 16 October 2020
James L. Everett, Jefferson Hills, 21 October 2020
Doris A. Ganzy, Irwin, 19 December 2020
Keith C. Stephens, New Matamoros, Ohio, 23 February 2020
Edward C. Gabler Jr., Latrobe, 27 January 2021
Joseph L. Renaldi, Taylor, 04 February 2021
Mark Clipper Sr., Carmichaels, 07 March 2021
Kent D. Smith, Red Lion, 30 April 2021
Rosemary L. Akers, Washington, 12 July 2021
Larry S. Glenn, Erie, 25 August 2021

The following passings prior to FY2021 were reported during the last year:

Ronald R. Shepherd, Buffalo, New York, 12 December 2013
Roger Koscielniak, Ennis, Texas, 01 April 2014
Carolyn Quillen, Leechburg, 14 December 2015
Charles G. Reigleman, Greenville, 11 June 2016
Kenneth E. Ochs, Natrona Heights, 31 January 2018
Ronald E. Ritz, Friedens, 15 August 2019

Keystone PVA thanks you for your generosity

Individuals and institutions made generous **direct donations** to the Keystone PVA in our **fiscal year 2021 (01 October 2020 to 30 September 2021)**. This chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America does not accept government grants and did not apply for pandemic relief money. We are very grateful for donors who believe in supporting our work and our veterans. A significant amount of the chapter's work is done by some of its own most determined members, despite their health challenges, and this generous help greatly encourages them.

Even during this time of pandemic, the nine-person Board of Directors, all of them unpaid volunteer members, meets to oversee, review and approve the chapter's work; President Mark Rosensteel stays in touch with members and staff; Treasurer Bill Jakovac conducts the chapter's financial affairs; and members, especially where their region's VA medical centers are partially "open," are keeping an eye out for their fellow vets. But they all look forward to doing more when the pandemic finally lifts.

Thank you for making our work possible.

Independent Auditor's Report and Financial Statements

The Keystone Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (Keystone PVA) engaged Kimberly Y. Donovan, CPA, to perform its independent audit for Fiscal Year 2021. The following opinion letter, Statement of Activities, and Statement of Financial Position are the highlights of the results of the FY 2021 audit. To see the complete audit, including supporting notes, contact Keystone PVA.

Kimberly Y. Donovan
Certified Public Accountant

771 Davis Road
Ellwood City PA 16117
724-674-9882 cell
kimberlydonovancpa@hotmail.com

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America, Inc.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America, Inc. (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as of September 30, 2021, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

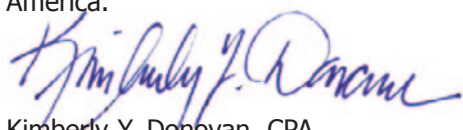
My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, I express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America, Inc. as of September 30, 2021, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



Kimberly Y. Donovan, CPA
Ellwood City, Pa.
January 4, 2022

KEYSTONE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

KEYSTONE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
<u>Operating Activities</u>			
National PVA Contributions	\$ 148,832	\$ -	\$ 148,832
Thrift Shop Fundraising, net	107,365	-	107,365
General Contributions	22,427	-	22,427
Membership dues	350	-	350
Newsletter Advertising	-	-	-
Ammo box donations	203	-	203
Fishing Tournament	60	-	60
Other income	267	-	267
Total support and revenue before releases	279,504	-	279,504
Net assets released from restrictions	2,122	(2,122)	-
Total revenue and support	281,626	(2,122)	279,504
<u>Expenses</u>			
Program services:			
Membership and benefits	61,785	-	61,785
Public affairs	65,966	-	65,966
Research	9,056	-	9,056
Total program services	136,807	-	136,807
Support services:			
General and administration	61,291	-	61,291
Fundraising	7,923	-	7,923
Total support services	69,214	-	69,214
Total expenses	206,021	-	206,021
Change in net assets from operating activities	75,605	(2,122)	73,483
<u>Nonoperating Activities</u>			
Interest income	3,078	-	3,078
Investment return, net	183,472	-	183,472
Change in net assets from nonoperating activities	186,550	-	186,550
Change in net assets	262,155	(2,122)	260,033
<u>Net Assets</u>			
Net Assets, Beginning	1,645,977	2,122	1,648,099
Net Assets, Ending	\$ 1,908,132	\$ -	\$ 1,908,132

KEYSTONE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

	<u>2021</u>
Assets	
Cash and equivalents	\$ 280,774
Certificates of deposit	326,385
Fundraising receivable	8,776
Prepaid expenses	<u>4,568</u>
Current assets	620,503
Investments, at fair value	1,140,392
Property and equipment:	
Building and improvements	322,178
Equipment and furniture	14,096
Vehicle	84,008
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(251,993)</u>
Property and equipment, net	168,289
Total assets	<u>\$ 1,929,184</u>
Liabilities and net assets	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ <u>21,052</u>
Total current liabilities	21,052
Net assets	
Without donor restrictions	1,908,132
With donor restrictions	<u>-</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,908,132</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 1,929,184</u>

PHOTO CREDITS. Page 1, Lebanon County Career and Technology Center; Page 5, At The Lake Ministries; page 11, Heidi Mears, principal, Hatfield Elementary School. All other editorial photos by Keystone PVA staff.

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICERS for members in or around Pennsylvania:

Western Pennsylvania: Calls are being taken by **Charles Tocci**, 315-425-4400, ext. 53317,
or by email, **charlesto@pva.org**.

Eastern Pennsylvania: **Joseph Weeks**, Philadelphia, 800-795-3628

Western New York: **Nona Nixon**, Buffalo, 800-795-3619

New Jersey: Newark, 800-795-3617



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:*

James E. Van Zandt VAMC

2907 Pleasant Valley Boulevard

Altoona, PA 16602-4377

877-626-2500

Bill 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 Reps.

Lebanon VAMC

1700 S. Lincoln Avenue

Lebanon, PA 17042-7529

800-409-8771

Chris Fidler—VAVS Representative

Ken Walters—Deputy Rep.

VA Pgh. 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

For both campuses:

Tom Strang—VAVS Representative



The next Keystone PVA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

will be on Saturday, 12 FEBRUARY 2022
via Zoom videoconference*

Please connect just before 12:45 p.m.,
when the meeting will be called to order.

No primary meeting site!

President Mark Rosensteel will preside.

No advance registration needed.

**Need help with Zoom? Call the chapter office!*

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.