



THE PARASCOPE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE KEYSTONE CHAPTER OF THE
PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
VOLUME XX, ISSUE 2 MARCH-APRIL 2022

Members meet with Congressional staff, press priorities

Several members of the Keystone chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), led by President Mark Rosensteel and Legislative Director Chris Fidler, met via videoconference with staff people for 18 members of Congress from Pennsylvania in early March.

Through the year, the Government Relations and Advocacy staff of the national office of the PVA work diligently to advance legislation and policies that benefit

paralyzed and other veterans, and even nonveterans. Many chapters support this effort through the year, maintaining relationships with members of Congress in their own states and service regions and meeting regularly via monthly video conferences.

The meetings with Congressional staff were preceded by the PVA Advocacy/Legislation Seminar, a two-day review

Continued on page 2



On one of 18 Zoom video meetings with staff people of members of Congress from Pennsylvania, seven people from Keystone Paralyzed Veterans met with **Rachel Hugman** (lower right), legislative director for Congressman Conor Lamb of the 17th Pennsylvania District. In the top row, left to right, are President **Mark Rosensteel** and Board Members **Sean Ferry** and **Joe Dunn**. Second row: Chapter Webmaster **Bill Hoffman**, Treasurer and National Director **Bill Jakovac**, and Executive Director **Joe Dornbrock**. Lower left: Legislative Director **Chris Fidler**.

Paralyzed Veterans of America, Keystone Chapter

President

Mark O. Rosensteel

Vice President

William D. Lightner

Secretary

Dane R. Smith

Treasurer

William D. Jakovac

Directors

Joseph A. Dunn

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David B. Gifford

Tom Strang

Executive Director

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Advocacy Director

To be named

Fundraising Coordinator

William D. Jakovac

Hospital Visitation 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

National Service Officers

*Currently vacant; see page 14 for
other Service Officers*

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Chapter members help advance legislation

Continued from page 1

of the status of important legislation affecting paralyzed veterans. Prior to the pandemic, the Seminar and the Congressional meetings that follow were held in person in Arlington, Virginia, and in Washington, D.C. In 2021 and this March, however, the video technology became available to make the Seminar and the meetings happen remotely.

Most of the chapter participants are shown in the photo on page 1; President Rosensteel and Legislative Director Fidler led every meeting, and the other participants shown joined for most meetings. Not pictured, but also participating, was Constance Snavely.

One of the bills, H.R. 5575, the VA Nurse and Physician Assistant RAISE Act, was incorporated into the omnibus budget bill that funds the federal government until 30 September this year; the omnibus bill was passed and signed by the president. This will increase pay caps on nurse and physician assistant salaries to help the VA attract and retain top health care talent to ensure veterans receive timely, high-quality care.

Another bill, S. 2533, Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options for Veterans, (MAMMO) Act, was passed by the Senate on a voice vote. It will improve access to breast imaging services for SCI/D veterans. It will also mandate a study on the accessibility of mammography services within VA and require VA to update its policies and directives for community care, ensuring sites are accessible and are informed on best practices for screening paralyzed and disabled veterans. It has a companion bill in the House, H.R. 4794, which needs to be passed. Congresswoman Chrissy Houlahan of Pennsylvania is a co-sponsor of the House bill.

On the next page, the rest of the legislative priorities of the Paralyzed Veterans is listed, and includes Pennsylvania's sponsors and co-sponsors of the bills shown. Since our conversations with Congressional staff people in March, additional members of Congress have signed on as co-sponsors to some of the bills. We appreciate the support of all those who have become co-sponsors, and we will continue to encourage members to keep signing on with the goal of moving the bills out of committee and to the floors of the respective chapters for votes, passage, and signatures by the president.

Legislation will benefit paralyzed vets—and others

The work of the Paralyzed Veterans of America on the passage of important legislation affects many of our members and other paralyzed veterans, but it extends to many others. The first four bills listed on the next page, for example, also benefit non-paralyzed vets, and non-veterans, as well. Possibly the largest impact will come from the passage of the Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust Act, which will shore up Social Security. It has 202 sponsors and co-sponsors in the House, and five sponsors and co-sponsors in the Senate.

For more information on each bill, go to [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov). This website will let you look up the contents of any bill, the versions that have been introduced and modified, the sponsors and co-sponsors, the status of progress through the Congress, and much more. We also have a 24-page booklet that summarizes the legislation and the reasons for the support of them by the Paralyzed Veterans, along with partners the Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Legislative priorities of the Paralyzed Veterans

H.R. 1696/S. 642, the **Air Carrier Access Amendments Act**: Improves access to air travel for people with disabilities. This House bill has three Pa. co-sponsors: Representatives Dwight Evans, Conor Lamb, and Mary Gay Scanlon. The Senate bill is co-sponsored by Senator Robert P. Casey Jr. of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3765/S. 630, the **Disability Employment Incentive Act**: Expands tax credits and deductions for businesses to hire and retain employees with disabilities and make their businesses more accessible. Pa. Representative Brian Fitzpatrick is a co-sponsor of the House bill, and Senator Bob Casey introduced the Senate bill.

H.R. 4714/S. 2481, the **Disabled Access Credit Expansion Act**: Increases tax incentives that help businesses with ADA compliance and funding for the U.S. Department of Justice's ADA mediation program. Pennsylvania U.S. Senator Bob Casey is a cosponsor of the Senate bill.

H.R. 5723/S. 3071, the **Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust Act**: Ensures Social Security beneficiaries will not see cuts in their benefits and makes other important improvements. Co-sponsors of the House bill include these Representatives from Pennsylvania: Brendan Boyle, Matt Cartwright, Madeleine Dean, Mike Doyle, Dwight Evans, Chrissy Houlahan, Conor Lamb, Mary Gay Scanlon, and Susan Wild.

H.R. 6823, the **Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act**: Makes critically needed improvements to HCBS programs and services.

H.R. 2734/S. 1280, the **Veteran Families Health Services Act**: Expands and improves access to assisted reproductive technology (ART) for service members and veterans, and permanently authorizes funding to provide *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) and ART. It also expands options for veterans with infertility issues and requires VA and the Department of Defense to facilitate research into veterans' reproductive health needs. The House bill is currently co-sponsored by two Pa. Representatives, Chrissy Houlahan and Susan Wild.

H.R. 1957, the **Veterans Infertility Treatment Act of 2021**: Allows the VA to provide both infertility treatments and preservation services and ensures that the VA provides fertility counseling to veterans or their partners. This bill is currently co-sponsored by three Pa. Representatives, Madeleine Dean, Chrissy Houlahan and Susan Wild.

H.R. 5607/S. 3483, the **Justice for ALS Veterans Act**: Allows survivors of veterans who died from service-connected ALS to receive the dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) "kicker" payment. The House bill is currently co-sponsored by two Pa. Representatives, Brian Fitzpatrick and Madeleine Dean.

H.R. 3402/S. 976, the **Caring for Survivors Act**: Allows additional survivors to receive DIC benefits and increases the monthly benefit amount to match benefits provided by other federal survivor programs. The House bill has five Pa. co-sponsors: Representatives Madeleine Dean, Dwight Evans, Brian Fitzpatrick, Chrissy Houlahan, and Conor Lamb.

H.R. 1361/S. 444, the **Advancing Uniform Transportation Opportunities (AUTO) for Veterans Act**: Authorizes additional VA Automobile Allowance Grants to eligible veterans. The bill was introduced in the House by Pennsylvania U.S. Representative Dan Meuser; five other House members from Pa. have signed on: Dwight Evans, Brian Fitzpatrick, John Joyce, Chrissy Houlahan, and Susan Wild.

H.R. 3304, the **CARS for Vets Act**: Allows additional Automobile Allowance Grants and codifies the provision of certain vehicle modifications for qualified veterans with non-service-connected disabilities.

H.R. 5819, the **Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act**: Increases home improvements and structural alterations (HISA) grant rates to \$10,000 for veterans with a service connected disability and \$5,000 for veterans with a non-service connected disability and applies an inflation formula to keep them relevant in future years. This House bill has five Pa. co-sponsors: Representatives Madeleine Dean, Mike Doyle, Dwight Evans, Brian Fitzpatrick, and Dan Meuser.

H.R. 5666/S. 3025, the **Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act**: Ensures all military sexual trauma (MST) survivors receive appropriate support through the claims process as well as mental health services.

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.

Here are the sports and recreation events that we are working on for you:

TWO Bass Tournaments! See Tom Strang's report below.

National Veterans Wheelchair Games, 07 to 12 July. Keystone PVA will be sending seven athletes to the Games in Tempe, Arizona this summer.

Kennywood Park Picnic, late July. Exact date to be announced; details in the next Parascope.

We also have hopes that our Annual Awards Banquet will be in-person; right now, that tentative date is 06 October.

And we are "piggybacking" on events put on by the

Team Bass Tournaments

This year will be the first year that Keystone PVA will sponsor two **Team Bass Tournaments**. They will both take place at the American Legion Post 940 Marina in West Brownsville, Pa., as usual.

The late-spring event will be on Sunday, 12 June, and the late summer date will be Saturday, 10 September. The detailed information is on page 9, but to get the actual application form, with rules and limitations, call the office. Regular participants will be mailed these forms when they become available.

For both, check-in will be at 5:30 a.m. The registration fee for members is \$30, however, your check will be

Buckeye Chapter, our neighbor chapter to the west. The Buckeye Games, usually held in person in northeast Ohio, will be virtual instead from 10 to 19 May, and the Buckeye Wheelchair Billiards Tournament will be held 25 and 26 June. The chapter has been discussing participation in an archery hunt in central Ohio in the autumn.

In the meantime, we REALLY encourage you to look into bowling. The chapter will reimburse members up to three games a week for the member and for an attendant or family member, and you can bowl near home. Some of our members bowl using ramps, and would be pleased to show you how.

If you reside in the Erie Area—see you at the Erie VA Medical Center for the 11 June Membership Meeting.

Tom Strang, Associate Sports Director

returned to you when you arrive. Disabled anglers will be paired with able-bodied boat partners by random public drawing. Trophies and prize money will be awarded to winning teams. There will be fishing prizes.

Following weigh-in, participants will be treated to a picnic. The application deadline is 03 June 2022. Call the office for the entry form, rules and limitations.

The Bass Tournaments are organized in partnership with the Greene County BassMasters and its president, Larry Freeman, and with funding from the Tom Landish Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation. Mr. Landish is also a boat captain in the event. We are grateful for their support!

2021-22 season Keystone PVA bowling scores

*Reported as of March 2022.
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	170	470	113	38	24	122
John M. Kellner	174	426	160	193	153	130
Mark Rosensteel	198	585	166	26	12	173



Want To Improve Your Bowel Function?



Recently published research reveals between 50 and 80% of participants reported improvements in bowel function and/or management after walking in an exoskeleton*

Did you know Paralyzed US Veterans May be Eligible for a ReWalk Personal Exoskeleton?

**Contact ReWalk for more Information:
rewalk.com/contact or
508.251.1154 option 2**

*Chun A, et al. Changes in bowel function following exoskeletal-assisted walking in persons with spinal cord injury: an observational pilot study. Spinal Cord. 2020;58(4):459-466.

Project Easter Bag expanding across Pennsylvania

by Agnes Strang, Volunteer Coordinator

Our annual project to bring personal use items to hospitalized veterans, Project Easter Bag, took two years off due to the pandemic. But in 2022, with the eager help of chapter members in other regions outside Pittsburgh, we will be bringing the Easter Bags to hospitalized vets in Erie and Lebanon, as well.

In the past, our veterans greatly appreciated receiving much needed personal care items in the Southwestern Veterans' Center in Pittsburgh and the H.J. Heinz III Campus of the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System in O'Hara and Fox Chapel Townships near Pittsburgh. We are pleased that the new effort to expand the project is led by Board members Sean Ferry in Erie and Chris Fidler in Lebanon.

In the past, we had made a formal outreach to various organizations to support Project Easter Bag. We have not done so for two years, but we have received financial support nonetheless. It means a lot knowing these generous folks at religious, social, civic, and other veterans organizations are so thoughtful and helpful.

We also have the help of volunteers who pick up the many cases of the items (such as shampoo and shaving cream) and deliver them to the office, who help assemble the bags and pack them, and who deliver them to the veterans.

The major pandemic-induced change in 2022 will be that we cannot deliver the bags directly. But we have the help of the VA's Voluntary Service office personnel, who will complete the delivery for us in the various medical and residential facilities.

Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America have representatives who visit and serve in the VA medical centers in Altoona, Butler, Erie, Lebanon, and Pittsburgh, and hope to soon announce a presence at the VAMC in Wilkes-Barre. Members who wish to assist should call the Keystone PVA office to ask how.

Erie, Pennsylvania-area members!

The June Membership Meeting will be at the Erie VA Medical Center! See the back page for details.



Volunteer Coordinator **Agnes Strang** (at right) prepared Easter Bags at the chapter office for the first time since 2019 with the help of Membership and Project Assistant **Marisa Markowitz** (left) and volunteer **Sarah Jarvis**. These are just some of the Easter Bags, and they are just the bags for the hospitalized vets in the Pittsburgh region.

IS LIFE FAIR
Tragedy to Triumph
Brian Jacob

Brian Jacob, owner of WESTARM Physical Therapy and Home Health, makes his debut as an author with his memoir *Is Life Fair: Tragedy to Triumph* published by Passages & Prose, LLC.

Brian shares his remarkable story of Triumph over Tragedy. In this book, Brian calls on stories from his life as a teenager, lessons he's learned, and his life experiences to help readers understand that life may not seem fair at times, but making the best of it can be very rewarding.

*"A poignant reminder of the strength of the human spirit when put to test."
- J.D. Wylde, Author, When Trouble Comes Calling*

Scan QR code on your phone camera.

Is Life Fair: Tragedy to Triumph now available on Amazon, Kindle, and other online merchants. Also available in many local bookstores.



Above, left to right: **Joe Dunn, Steve Zimmerman, Anne Zimmerman, and Chris Fidler** finish buying and packing Easter Bags for delivery at the Lebanon VAMC. Top right: the Easter Bags they prepared. At right: **Agnes** (front minivan) and **Tom Strang** get ready to deliver 350 Easter Bags to hospitalized vets at the VA Pittsburgh Health Care System and the Southwestern Veterans Center.



Pa. Dept. of Military & Veterans Affairs holding Town Hall meetings

The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) has been holding a series of Town Hall meetings for veterans in 2022. Below is the schedule for the remaining four Town Halls.

When you visit DMVA's website, Twitter or Facebook pages two weeks prior to each Town Hall, you can obtain the WebEx link for each meeting. The website address is dmva.pa.gov.

All Town Hall meetings are held on Wednesdays from 5 to 6:30 p.m.:

18 May—**Serving Older Veterans**

13 July—**Resources for Homeless Veterans**

14 September—**Transportation Issues Facing Veterans**

02 November—**Honoring Veterans for Their Service and Sacrifice**

There is a lot of information on the dmva.pa.gov website. You may wish to bookmark it for easy reference.

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& HOME HEALTH
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**Your Hometown Physical Therapists
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Lower Burrell • Leechburg • New Kensington
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Home Health

benefits box

VA benefits information for
our members from
Charles Tocci, Senior NSO and
East-North Area Manager
at the Syracuse, NY SCI Center



Travel Pay Reimbursement

One of the issues which National Service Officers receive questions about is eligibility for travel pay reimbursement and how to file a claim. You are eligible if traveling for care to a VA health facility, or VA-approved care at a facility in the community; service connected at 30% or more, traveling for care of a service connected issue even if overall service connection is less than 30%, in receipt of VA pension, or you make less than maximum annual VA pension rate (this criteria has multiple qualifiers/income requirements), or you are traveling for a scheduled VA claim exam, or to get a service dog. As you can see, there are multiple ways in which you may qualify for VA travel pay reimbursement.

The following criteria are likely of special interest to PVA chapter members as they are identifiable to care issues related to spinal cord injuries and or other neuromuscular disorders. VA may also reimburse for specialty transportation if traveling to get treatment at special rehabilitation centers like clinics providing care for spinal cord injuries, vision loss/blindness, or prosthetics rehabilitation. You must need in-patient care or be getting temporary lodging approved by VA, be eligible for general health care travel reimbursement, a VA provider has decided your medical condition requires an ambulance/specially equipped van for travel, finally, VA approved travel in advance, unless a life-threatening situation. VA may reimburse non-veteran caregivers for transportation and related lodging and meals if 1) they are in the VA National Caregiver program and are traveling for caregiver training, or 2) supporting your care, or 3) a medically required attendant is traveling with you to support your care.

The process for filing a claim has changed recently. You can file a claim for travel pay reimbursement via an online portal known as BTSSS (Beneficiary Travel Self Service System). You will find the process for completing an online travel claim at <https://www.va.gov/health-care/get-reimbursed-for-travel-pay/>. Additionally, many VA facilities now have lobby kiosks where you can complete the online travel pay process. Alternatively, you can complete VA Form 10-3542 "Veteran/ Beneficiary Claim for Reimbursement of Travel Expenses" and mail, fax, or e-mail the form to the VA facility where you received care.

You can be reimbursed for mileage to/from a medically necessary appointment (current rate is 41.5 per mile), bridge, tunnel and road tolls, and parking. Public transportation costs to get your appointment for train, subway, bus, ferry and light rail can also be reimbursed. Please note that most VA travel offices are backlogged on claims, and it may take several months to receive your travel reimbursement. Please note that a \$3.00 deductible for each one-way trip or \$6.00 for each round-trip is deducted from travel reimbursement, up to a maximum of \$18.00 annually. We recommend contacting your National Service Officer or local VA travel office if you have questions concerning travel pay reimbursement.

References:

<https://www.va.gov/health-care/get-reimbursed-for-travel-pay/>

<https://www.visn4.va.gov/VISN4/features/beneficiary-travel-reimbursement.asp>

<https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/314>

2022 TEAM BASS FISHING TOURNAMENTS



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

Sponsored by
the Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America,
the Greene County BassMasters, and
the Tom Landish Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation

**Late spring:
SUNDAY, 12 JUNE 2022**

**Late summer:
SATURDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2022**

Location:

The marina at the American Legion Post 940, 800 Middle Street, West Brownsville PA 15417

Schedule:

Disabled angler check-in: 5:30 to 6 a.m.

Cast-off: 7 p.m.

Weigh-in: 1 p.m.

Picnic after the weigh-in

Entry fee, boat captain: \$20.00

Entry fee, disabled angler: \$30.00

Checks will be returned to boat captains and anglers present for those present when awards are presented at the picnic.

[To request an application, with rules and limitations, call the Keystone chapter office, 412-781-2474 or 800-775-9323](#)

Prizes per team for total catch:

1st place	\$500.00
2nd place	\$250.00
3rd place	\$200.00
4th place	\$150.00
5th place	\$100.00
6th place	\$ 50.00
7th place	\$ 50.00
8th place	\$ 50.00

Prize for the Big Bass: \$100.00

Prize for the 2nd biggest bass: \$50.00
(one angler cannot have both biggest bass)

Tournament director: Larry Freeman, President, Greene County BassMasters, **724-678-6860**
Tom Strang, Associate Sports Director, Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America, **724-350-7957**

Washington Wild Things invites veterans to “Salute to Service” Night

The Washington Wild Things, the minor league baseball club in Washington, Pa., will hold “Salute to Service Night” on Saturday, 11 June 2022.

Active duty, retired military personnel and veterans can attend the game at no charge. Others pay a discounted \$10.00 per person for admission.

The Wild Things play at Wild Things Park, One Washington Federal Way, Washington, PA 15301. The

ballpark is in Washington, Pa., right off Interstate 70 and the Chestnut Street Exit, and is approximately 35 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.

The game will start at 7:05 p.m. and the gates will open at 6 p.m. Accessible seating is available.

Contact information for Wild Things account representative Jesus Paez, including to order tickets: 724-579-1087, 724-250-9555, or jpaez@washingtonwildthings.com.

Keystone PVA Events and Meetings for the rest of calendar year 2022

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: 11 June, 13 August, 15 October, and 10 December

The 11 June meeting will also be held in person at the Erie VA Medical Center, with a Zoom link for members outside the Erie area.

Board of Directors meetings

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

21 April, 26 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

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

Memorial Day: 30 May (Monday)

Independence Day: 01 July (Friday) and 04 July (Monday)

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

PHOTO CREDITS: Front page photos taken by Mark Rosensteel and Sean Ferry. Page 7 top photos provided by Chris Fidler. All other editorial photos by Keystone PVA staff.

More people who help make Keystone PVA work!

Membership and Project Assistant: **Marisa Markowitz**

Bookkeeper: **Nancy Campbell**

Independent auditor: **Kimberly Y. Donovan, C.P.A.**

PHOTO SUBMISSIONS WELCOME.

Must be sent or delivered in electronic format. Must include caption information. Delivery to Keystone PVA gives it the right to use as it deems fit. Due to issues of quality and quantity, we cannot guarantee all submissions can be used.

Elections for the Keystone PVA Board of Directors

Every year, three directors' terms on the Board of Directors end on 30 September. Any "life member" may run for one of those positions. The background on Board service and the requirements to run follow.

Eligibility

Any "life member" is eligible to vote and/or run for a seat on the Board as a director. A "life member" is a person who has been accepted for membership by virtue of being a United States military veteran with an other-than-dishonorable discharge and is a citizen of the United States with a verified spinal cord dysfunction. No others are eligible.

Responsibility

Though the chapter and PVA use the term "member," neither are clubs but are corporations organized not for profit. **Board members have a legal obligation known as the "fiduciary duty" to oversee the operations, assets, and reputation of the chapter according to all federal, state and local laws.** There are no "owners" of the chapter. The Board members are trustees, administering the chapter for the benefit of all members. Corporate law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania governs fiduciary responsibilities, not the chapter and not PVA.

Duties

Attendance at Board meetings is essential. They are not committee meetings or social events, and they take less than two hours to complete each month. Most business items are prepared in advance through committees or by consultation with the Board president and executive director. One week before the Board meeting, the officers and executive director meet to review items submitted for the Board's agenda, but they never make any decisions (except those which may need to be ratified by the full Board at its next meeting) nor do they prevent an item of business from consideration. They simply insure that they understand each item.

Many of the chapter's programs (e.g., advocacy, membership, recreation, and service) are conducted directly by Board members. All activity by the chapter is authorized by the Board, though the Board delegates that activity to individual Board members, to staff, and to volunteers.

After ballots have been mailed to the office, a team of volunteers counts and certifies the votes, then reports the outcome to the chapter secretary and president.

In recent years, the people who count the votes—the "tellers"—have been (left to right) Shirley Wheaton, Sarah Jarvis, and Agnes Strang.



Election process

A member who wishes to serve on the Board must submit a candidacy statement that will be sent out to all voting members with the ballot and will be published in the July-August issue of *The Parascope*. The statement should contain your reasons for why you should be elected. It often includes some biography and some things you would like the chapter to do or continue doing. You should also submit a head-and-shoulders photo of yourself, or go to the office to have a photo taken.

A candidacy statement may not be any longer than 400 words. It will not be used if it is longer; 200 words or less is a better, more readable length. Candidates may ask for assistance in writing a statement by the executive director, but the candidate has the final decision on content within the 400 word limit.

The candidacy statement and photo must be finalized and delivered to the chapter office by 15 June 2022, no exceptions. The Board will review the slate of candidates to insure that all are certified members in good standing.

The ballot will be mailed to all voting members by first class mail during the first full week in July. Enclosed with the ballot will be 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 2022.

All ballots will be tabulated at the chapter office on 12 August.

The results of the tabulation will be announced at the August Membership Meeting, and in the September-October 2022 edition of *The Parascope*. All newly elected or re-elected directors must attend the September Board meeting in order to be oriented to service obligations.

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
Attendance at a Keystone PVA membership activity, e.g., <i>Easter Bag distribution, Fish for Fun, Kennywood Picnic, Annual Awards Banquet</i>	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., <i>bowling, fishing, hunting, trapshoot, etc.</i>	1 point
Sign up a regular voting member	2 points
Represent Keystone PVA at community functions, e.g., <i>Sharing and Caring, Soldiers & Sailors, United Cerebral Palsy, Veteran Support Groups</i>	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.

For more comprehensive information on chapter programs, refer to Operations Manual Section 8, which was sent to every member. You can access “Ops Man Section 8” on the chapter web site, www.kpva.org, or by calling the office.

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.
- ☛ 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.

Happy Birthdays!

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 Robert S. Nemchik Jr.
 Carl Shenk Jr.
 25 David L. Fry
 26 Christopher Burtch
 Danny Cillo
 Tara Lightner
 George "Murph" Neelan
 28 Allen C. Myers
 Fred Penzenstadler
 30 Nathan Dozier
 Nick Gallick

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!

03 John Schultz
 04 Frederick Fox
 David Kleinfelter Sr.
 05 Floyd Thompson
 06 Scott D. Bloom
 Alex Skupnick
 07 Bernard Hoffman
 09 Scott Musgrove
 11 Ronald Murhon
 12 Theresa Derr
 David Kopka
 13 Kenneth A. Barkhurst
 15 Charles Shaffer
 19 Jean Jakovac

19 William McConnell
 22 Stephen Roth
 Jeremi Senski
 24 Leroy Lamb
 25 William H. Hoffman
 30 George Ollila

June

02 David Pyle
 04 Joseph Branch
 Robert Szoszorek
 06 Sean Ferry
 09 Charles H. Agne
 Serena (McCloskey) Gregory
 10 David Kucherer
 11 Rich Sarocky
 13 David Cooper
 Kevin Williamson
 15 Tino Yaccich
 16 Robert Wilt
 20 Joseph Saffell
 24 Michael Carr
 Kenneth W. Deaven
 Berl Duvall
 Thomas Otte
 Andrew Womeldorf
 29 Gina Congie
 Hanna Mowry
 30 Larry Binger
 Austin Walters

May

01 Dennis Haines
 01 James McCracken Jr.

ADVERTISING in THE PARASCOPE

The Parascope is published bi-monthly. Deadline for submission of advertising for the May-June will be 01 May 2022.

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

The Keystone Paralyzed Veterans continue to hold Membership Meetings via Zoom videoconference, but in-person meetings will be held where and when possible.

The primary site for the June 2022 Membership Meeting will be the Erie VA Medical Center in Erie, Pa. Because of the warmer weather and the presence of a large outdoor pavilion in the hospital's upper parking lot, Keystone PVA members John Larese and Sean Ferry have arranged for the Saturday, 11 June meeting to be held there. Lunch will be served at noon and, as always, the Zoom connection will go "live" at 12:30 p.m. President Mark Rosensteel will call the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m.

The purpose of holding the meeting at the Erie VAMC is for our members in northwest Pennsylvania and that general region to have a shorter trip than if the meeting was held, say, at the chapter office near Pittsburgh, and to meet in person with the chapter president.

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:

Rachael Schneider, Buffalo, 800-795-3619

New Jersey: Newark, 800-795-3617

We welcome new Life Member
Austin Walters, Burgettstown, Pa., a veteran
of the U.S. Army

and we mourn the passing of members
Stanley Adams of State College, Pa., a Navy
veteran and a 20-year member
Stephen Flintosh of Bethlehem, Pa., an Army
veteran and a two-year member.

MEMBERSHIP TOTALS AS OF 31 MARCH 2022

Service connected	123
Non-service connected	<u>107</u>
TOTAL	230
Annual Associate Members	16
Lifetime Associate Members	<u>66</u>
TOTAL	82

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.

Richard Anderson, John H. Conrad,
Roberta Houston, Jerald R. Johnson,
William H. Johnson, Donald G. King,
and James D. Simmons

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 you can download one from www.kpva.org or just 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.

Red boxes, green boxes: a generous public supports Keystone Paralyzed Vets



This donation box is at Novotny's Country Baked Pizza, less than a mile off Pa. Route 28 using the Slate Lick Exit 18, about 10 miles southwest of Kittanning in Armstrong County, Pa.

Red boxes

Since the mid-1990s, the 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 Pa. 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.

Green boxes

In 2014 an associate member of the chapter, Tim Knoebel, suggested placing donation boxes in places of business. The result was the modified ammunition box shown below. It has a deposit slot in the top and when sent out, it is sealed with a numbered zip tie. The ammo boxes are in several business locations whose owners have been most generous with their counter space; their customers have been quite generous, as well. We have more that can be placed. If interested in helping with Project Ammo Box, call the office, 412-781-2474 or 800-775-9323.



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 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 Rep.

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
Rex Nichols—Deputy Rep.

Lebanon VAMC

1700 S. Lincoln Avenue
Lebanon PA 17042-7529
800-409-8771
Chris Fidler—VAVS Representative
Ken Walters—Deputy Rep.

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

For both campuses:

Tom Strang—VAVS Representative



The next Keystone PVA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

will be on Saturday, 11 JUNE 2022

(Lunch 12 noon; meeting 12:45 p.m.)

Primary site: Erie VA Medical Center

135 E. 38th Street, Erie PA 16504-1559
in the upper parking lot pavilion

Join by Zoom videoconference.

The meeting at the Erie VAMC is for members in the Erie area to attend in person. All others are welcome to join online; the Zoom link will be emailed to members with email addresses. Lunch will be served!

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

If attending in person PLEASE

RSVP by 03 June 2022

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 Parascop, 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 Parascop.