



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Keystone Chapter

# THE PARASCOPE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE KEYSTONE CHAPTER  
OF THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA  
VOLUME XXI, ISSUE 2  
MARCH-APRIL 2023

## Paralyzed vets ask Congress to meet needs

Support for caregivers. Improving veterans and survivor benefits. Reduce the wait times for receiving approved benefits. Maintain and improve the VA health care staffing and benefits.

These were just a few of the issues that Keystone Paralyzed Veterans discussed with members of Congress from Pennsylvania and their staff members who specialized in veterans and health care matters in early March in their offices on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

The visits followed PVA's annual two-day Advocacy/Legislation Seminar in Arlington, Virginia. President Mark Rosensteel, Legislative Director Chris Fidler, and MS Committee Representative Peter Townsend participated in seminars and other presentations that updated members of chapters from all over the United States on important legislation that will serve more veterans and serve them better.

*Continued on page 6*



*Photo above:* Keystone PVA President **Mark Rosensteel** (left) met with U.S. Representative **Glenn "GT" Thompson** of the Pennsylvania 15th Congressional District in his office in the Cannon House Office Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., in early March 2023.



*Photo left:* Meanwhile, U.S. Representative **Chrissy Houlahan** (left) of Pennsylvania's 6th Congressional District met with Keystone PVA's Legislative Director **Chris Fidler** (center) and the chapter's MS Committee Representative **Peter Townsend** in her Longworth House Office Building office.

The next Membership Meeting will be on Saturday, 10 June 2023! [Details on back page](#)

Paralyzed Veterans  
of America,  
Keystone Chapter

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# Mark your calendars now!

Two major chapter member events have been confirmed for later in 2023.

The annual **Kennywood Park Picnic** will be held on **Wednesday, 19 July**. The park will open at 10:30 a.m., and members who have passes for the day can arrive as early as they want. The picnic itself will be held at Pavilion 8 starting at 4 p.m., but members can use it as “home base” any time of the day. Food will be served there from 4 to 5 p.m., and door prizes will be awarded then. Kennywood has changed its policy on types of admission passes (there is only one category now, no matter what your age), and the amount of food ordered will be for the same number of people as receive group admission passes through the chapter, so a “picnic” charge will not be optional. On the other hand, the chapter will be obtaining admission passes at a substantial discount from what you would pay at the gate.

The **Annual Awards Banquet** has been confirmed for **Thursday, 05 October** at the Hampton Event Center on Route 8 in Richland Township, Allegheny County, a half mile north of the Butler Valley Interchange of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. No major changes in the format, except to ascertain the location and again, it will be in-person.

## *How to submit your requests for reimbursement*

There are two categories of expense associated with this chapter.

**Business expenses** relate to out-of-pocket expenses for travel to attend business meetings, organize chapter activities, or performing duties directly attached to serving on the chapter Board or as a chapter appointee (such as a VA Voluntary Services representative).

BUSINESS EXPENSES get reimbursed by using the chapter

### **Volunteer Expense Report.**

It can be sent to a member by email or postal mail.

**Recreation expenses** are incurred when a member buys a hunting or fishing license, participates in the chapter bass tournament or goes bowling, obtains a membership in a sportsmen’s club or a fitness club, or participates in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, the Buckeye Wheelchair Games, or other organized bowling, billiards, handcycling, fishing, or shooting events.

Be clear about what it is you wish reimbursement for. Mark the receipts by AT LEAST underlining the date, circling the amount, bracketing the payment method [cash or credit card] and briefly explaining the charge if it is not clear on the receipt—and it usually isn’t. It helps to make these markings in red ink. Mail it to the office prior to the 7th of each month so there is time to prepare it for approval by the Board at its monthly meeting.

*At this time, the chapter does not require advance requests for bowling fees, hunting or fishing licenses, or sportsmen’s club or fitness club memberships. Use the Volunteer Expense Report to list the event(s) for which reimbursement is requested, and attach the receipts to it.*

All other events require a minimum 45-day advance funding request using the

### **Application for Funding.**

It can be sent to you by email or postal mail. It has instructions on the back.





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# 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.*

## Handcycling

*(The following report was submitted by David Gifford, pictured.)* I attended the Paralyzed Veterans of America Sports Off Road handcycling event from April 13-16 at the Pocahontas State Park in Virginia. We rode off-road on several different trails requiring different technical skills to compete safely; my favorite trails there are the Blue Berry and Cork Screw Trails. These trails are tight in some places and fast in others over varying terrain and plenty of wildlife to be seen. It is great to get out in the woods.

This year we had bicycle maintenance support from two employees of the Lasher company, which makes handcycles. We also had three to six upright bicyclist and recumbent riders each day to ride with us. They help keep riders safe, sometimes guiding and sometimes following the different groups riding. Sometimes we need a little assistance to roll us back on to our wheels, help getting us moving on some of the steep hills or help in the event of bike mechanical problems. It is great to get together with veterans and talk about anything from biking to bladder care. This was also the first year we had a race to complete several trails on the designated course, which was fun and challenging.

I ride a Lasher ATH-FS, made in Las Vegas, Nevada. It is a bike designed specifically for mountain bike trails. It has power assist to get over almost any terrain and independent suspension to provide me with a comfortable safe ride on any trail.

Some upcoming events in Pittsburgh that include a handcycling division are the Pittsburgh Marathon on 07 May;



the Great Race on 22-23 September, and the EQT Pittsburgh 10 Miler on 06 November.

## Whitetails for Warriors Hunt

*(The following report was submitted by Tom Strang.)* The hunt is held in October of each year at the Buckhaven Learning Center, located in Mount Gilead, Ohio, 41 miles northeast of Columbus, Ohio. Must be a combat wounded/disabled veteran with a service-connected injury or illness to be eligible for this hunt. Twelve veterans will be drawn by Buckhaven's hunt coordinator each year. If an applicant has applied and is not selected that year, the application goes back into the selection process for the following year. Applications will be accepted until July 31

**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.

## 2022-23 season Keystone PVA bowling scores

*Reported as of March 2023.  
 Bowling year: 01 Oct-30 Sep*

	High Game	High Series	High Average	Strikes	Games	Average
Sean Ferry	211	563	191	35	18	165
John M. Kellner	222	508	169	255	179	148
Mark Rosensteel	179	478	161	21	15	147



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# Paralyzed vets ask Congress to meet needs *Continued from page 1*

Keystone PVA President Mark Rosensteel (at right in the photo, with Chris Fidler and Peter Townsend at the PVA Advocacy/Legislation Seminar) wrote this report on the seminar and Congressional visits in early March 2023.)

The 2023 PVA Advocacy/Legislative Seminar and Congressional visits during the week of 27 February went off without a hitch for the Keystone PVA advocacy team. Chris Fidler, our legislative director, is always inspirational at his task. He keeps track of veterans' issues and the bills they are legislating on behalf of all veterans. New to the team this year is Peter Townsend, who may be new but knows the issues. Peter is also our MS point of contact person for the chapter.

The process begins with monthly meetings via Zoom at which the national PVA government affairs and advocacy staff briefs chapters on the top issues facing veterans, their health care, and their other benefits. A little more than a month before PVA's annual 2023 PVA Advocacy/Legislative Seminar and Congressional visits, our chapter staff begins arranging meetings with all members of Congress from Pennsylvania (though not all respond favorably). Then we assemble a team of chapter representatives who can go to Arlington, Va. for the PVA seminar and then spend two more days making the scheduled Congressional visits on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Most Congressional meetings were with staff people who specialize in veterans' issues, but in two cases-- Representatives Chrissy Houlahan and Glenn "GT" Thompson--joined the meetings with us. All were



**Zach Shaw** (standing) of U.S. Senator Robert P. Casey Jr.'s staff, met with President **Mark**. Mr. Shaw visited the chapter offices in January.



*Continued on page 8*

# National service office in Pittsburgh is again fully staffed



**Brent Madison**

Though they are not brand new to the Pittsburgh PVA national service office, we are pleased that the office is fully staffed as of late last year with National Service Officer **Brent Madison**, having fully completed his PVA-mandated training, and with Secretary **Marissa Sabatucci** having been on the job there for the past several months. The PVA service office personnel handle rating appeals and benefits issues for our members.

Brent covers our veterans in western Pennsylvania. Like his counterpart in the Philadelphia office, his contact information is at the bottom of page 2.



**Marissa Sabatucci**

Brent is originally from Sioux Falls, South Dakota and graduated from South Dakota State University in 1993, where he was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force. As an intelligence officer, he spent the next seven years proudly serving with assignments at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Naval Air Station Key West, Buckley Air Force Base, Osan Air Base, and Offutt Air Force Base.

Separating from the USAF in 2000, Brent moved to Denver, Colorado and worked as a production manager and quality engineer at Space Imaging, the first company to collect satellite images of the earth for commercial use. From 2002-2014, Brent worked for Lockheed Martin performing duties as a mission scheduler, operations planner and calibration engineer for multiple space operations missions.

In 2014, Brent moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to be with his now wife and two stepchildren. Upon arriving in Pittsburgh, Brent started his own aerial photography business and is an FAA licensed drone operator.

Brent is an avid sports fan, loves the outdoors and spending time with family and friends.

Veterans issues and continuing to serve is extremely important to Brent and he is excited for this new career path with Paralyzed Veterans of America.

You can reach Brent at [BrentM@pva.org](mailto:BrentM@pva.org) or by calling our Pittsburgh office, 412-566-2648.

Marissa grew up in the suburbs of Akron, Ohio. In 2016, she moved to Pittsburgh to pursue her college degree, a B.F.A. in Acting at Point Park University. Marissa shares a dog, Otto, with her fiancé, Alex, whom she will be marrying in September of this year. Aside from working with PVA, in her free time, Marissa enjoys filmmaking both in front of and behind the camera.

## NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICERS for members in or around Pennsylvania:

Western Pennsylvania: **Brent Madison**, 800-795-3629

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

Western New York: **Matthew Wezka**, Buffalo, 800-795-3619

New Jersey: Newark, 800-795-3617



# Paralyzed vets ask Congress to meet needs *Continued from page 6*

cordial and they paid attention to the details that we were explaining along with the current bills that are in play that need more sponsors. Basically, that is our job: to explain how critical it is to get more sponsors for the bills that are going to benefit our veterans and the disabled community.

Some people do not realize that what we do for veterans with spinal cord injury, MS and ALS, also benefit others in the community. Such is the case with the bill to improve the Air Carrier Access Act, the ACAA. If passed it will give disabled individuals who fly and receive damage to their wheelchairs or injury to themselves the ability to litigate and receive compensation for damages, a right which currently we do not have.

Another bill we advocated for passage is the Stop the Wait Act. This particular bill helps ALS veterans obtain critical benefits in a timely manner and not the current eight-year waiting interval. These are just a few of many bills that PVA is pushing for, and with our continued effort, hopefully they will pass soon.

Other items we addressed included VA staffing, infrastructure, facility-based long-term care, home and community-based services and caregiver supports, veterans and survivor benefits, transportation programs and supports, life insurance benefits, home modification grants, health care and benefits for women veterans, and assisted reproductive technologies-- and that's the short list.

PVA national has a team in the Government Affairs and Advocacy departments that works for us and they do a phenomenal job in preparing us for this daunting task of working for our own benefits.

But chapters, including ours, can do more to advance this legislation and these issues. If more of our members will get involved. If you would like to start out by joining us for the monthly Government Relations Zoom meetings with the PVA staff, let me or Chris Fidler know, or call the chapter office.

*Do you know who your member of Congress is? Go to [congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) for a wealth of information on your elected officials and the status of vital legislation.*



**Kaylee Robinson** (standing), legislative assistant for U.S. Representative Matt Cartwright of Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District, met with **Mark, Chris and Peter** in the Congressman's office in the Rayburn House Office Building.



# Project Easter Bag grows to six veterans health care locations

Project Easter Bag has been a perennial veterans support project of the Keystone Paralyzed Veterans for decades, distributing personal use items such as liquid soap, deodorant, shaving cream and shampoo to hospitalized veterans around Easter time. Volunteer Coordinator Agnes Strang and a team of helpers obtained enough supplies for almost 500 veterans in two veterans' facilities near and in Pittsburgh, namely, the Heinz Campus of the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System and the Southwestern Veterans Center operated by the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

During the “pandemic years,” 2020 and 2021, the chapter did not conduct the project because access to the facilities was tightly restricted. But in 2022, chapter representatives approached the voluntary service offices of each facility and found they were willing to distribute the Easter Bags themselves. Our members also went to other VA medical centers and found them also willing to distribute the bags. All the chapter had to do was deliver them.

So in March and April 2023, chapter members obtained the supplies and arranged for assembly and distribution. The members in Erie and Lebanon obtained their own supplies, assembled and delivered them.

In Pittsburgh, even before the supplies were ordered, BNY Mellon reached out and offered the services of some volunteers to help the assembly of the bags at the chapter office. Because the office was to become the assembly point for Heinz and the Southwestern Veterans Center plus Altoona and Butler, the extra help was enthusiastically accepted! Pictured below, those volunteers were Shelby Coughenour, Zach Detemple, Sharon Garvey, Tracy Gregory, Heather Lafrenie, and Mark Luttinger.

The chapter has “site leaders” for members who get their care from four VA medical centers: Bill Lightner at Altoona; John Kellner at Butler; John Larese at Erie, and Chris Fidler at Lebanon. (Pittsburgh-area facilities continue to be served by Tom and Agnes Strang.) They made all necessary arrangements to get the personal use items to the hospitalized vets. The VA provides excellent care for hospitalized vets, but personal use items are the responsibility of the veterans themselves, or their families and friends.

Generous donors help defray the costs of the supplies, which cost thousands of dollars to obtain. We thank those who have helped make this project possible for many years, and who have now helped it expand.

BNY Mellon  
volunteers  
helped  
Volunteer  
Coordinator  
**Agnes  
Strang** (far  
right, in  
mask) and  
**Tom Strang**  
(sitting)  
assemble  
hundreds of  
Easter Bags.



# Sports and Recreation Report *Continued from page 4*

Keystone PVA life member **Joe Wilkinson** (at right in the photo) participated in the 2023 PVA Wheelchair Rugby Invitational at the Raleigh, North Carolina held 24-26 February 2023. Joe is a member of the Pittsburgh Steelwheelers wheelchair rugby team, which was one of 16 teams invited to the tournament.



*Continued from page 4*

each year, for that year's hunt. An application can be found at [buckhaven.org](http://buckhaven.org). The hunt includes four nights lodging, all meals, snacks, and beverages, in- or out-of-state Ohio hunting license with an either sex deer tag and lots of swag for the twelve hunters. (The applicant is responsible for travel to and from Buckhaven.)

## Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing

PHWFF is a recreational program based on the five core tenets of fly fishing and related activities: Fishing, fly tying, rod building, casting, and education. PHWFF provides a welcoming learning environment where veterans can relax, learn, socialize, learn new skills, and have fun. It guides our participants to recovery through fly fishing, mentoring, and friendship. This is an important mission that ties civilians to veterans, builds trust, and helps participants transition back into civilian life. For the PHWFF program closest to you, visit:

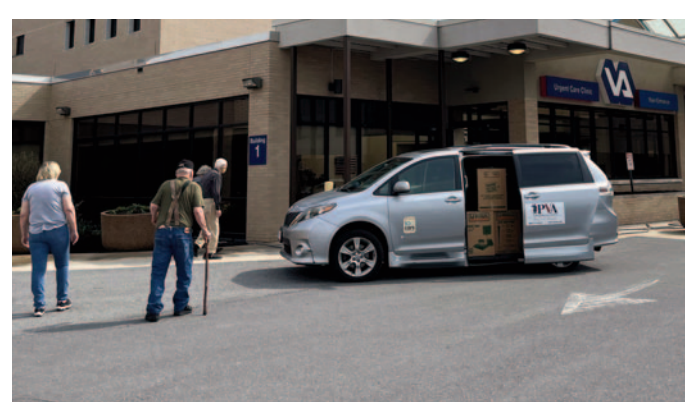
<https://projecthealingwaters.org/programs/locations/>



The Hillen family, and friend, enjoyed a Penguins hockey game from the Pittsburgh-Allegheny County Sports & Exhibition Authority (SEA) luxury suite in the PPG Paints Arena on Saturday, 01 April. From left: **Scott Hillen**, brother and Keystone PVA life member **Harry Hillen**, friend **Keira Kazsperski**, and Harry's daughter **Hannah**. From time to time the SEA offers tickets to pro sports games and concerts in Pittsburgh; seating is in the SEA's private luxury box—best seats in the house(s)! The chapter offers the tickets to members on a first come, first served basis, though preference is given to life members (paralyzed veterans) who have not attended an SEA-offered event recently. The tickets are now distributed by smartphone; recipients have to have the Ticketmaster app and the app of the appropriate sports team.



(At right, left to right) **Anne Zimmerman, Constance Snavely, Joe Dunn, and Chris Fidler** show the decorated bags of personal items they prepared for hospitalized veterans at the Lebanon VA Medical Center. (Below, clockwise from upper left) **Lynnette Ferry, John Larese,** and Sean Ferry presented one of the Easter Bags of personal use items to one of dozens of hospitalized veterans at the Erie VA Medical Center. In the photo at lower right, the Keystone PVA minivan awaits unloading of Easter Bags at the VA Medical Center in Altoona, Pa.



## Moss Rehab Institute for Brain Health (MRIBH) for TBI

MRIBH is a no-cost Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) treatment program supporting Veterans and First Responders across the U.S.

Veterans from all service branches and eras, no matter character of discharge or when TBI occurred, are eligible.

TBIs could have happened while on-duty or off-duty in civilian capacity.

MRIBH will cover the cost of treatment, transportation, lodging, and meals.

MRIBH uses a multi-disciplinary team of clinicians (e.g., vestibular PT, OT, neuropsychology).

The program is designed to support patients in two phases:

- (a) initial 3-day evaluation to provide a snapshot assessment of patients' current health, and
- (b) follow-on 3-week Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) to treat and equip patients with tools/skills to retrain their brains, cognitive and mental health.

Most importantly, we work with patients' existing physicians/therapies to continue care once they return to their communities. For more info:

[www.mossrehab.com/services/mribh](http://www.mossrehab.com/services/mribh)

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# 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, <i>e.g., 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, <i>e.g., bowling, fishing, hunting, trapshoot, etc.</i>	1 point
Sign up a regular voting member	2 points
Represent Keystone PVA at community functions, <i>e.g., Sharing and Caring, Soldiers &amp; 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 information on chapter programs, refer to Operations Manual Section 8, which you may request from the chapter 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. 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!

## May

01 Dennis Haines  
James McCracken  
03 John Schultz  
04 Frederick Fox  
David Kleinfelter Jr.  
Stanley Solarczyk  
05 Floyd Thompson  
06 Scott Bloom  
Jamie Gandert  
07 Bernard Hoffman  
09 Scott Musgrove  
11 Ronald Murhon  
12 Theresa Derr  
David Kopka  
14 Etta Bollinger  
15 Donald Massingill  
Michele Schnur  
Charles Shaffer  
19 Jean Jakovac  
William McConnell  
22 Abel Richardson  
Steven Roth  
Jeremi Sensky  
24 Leroy Lamb  
25 William Hoffman  
30 George Ollila

## June

01 William Sullivan  
02 David Pyle  
04 Joseph Branch  
Jason Fay  
06 Sean Ferry  
07 Troy Williams  
08 Domenico Lazzaro

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!

09 Charles Agne  
Serena (McCloskey) Gregory  
Edmond Proulx  
10 David Kucherer  
11 Clarence Appleby  
Rick Sarocky  
12 Frank Amaditz  
13 David Cooper  
Kevin Williamson  
15 Kimberly Atherton  
Tino Yaccich  
16 Shawn Carver  
Robert Wilt  
20 Joseph Saffell  
22 Harry Borger  
24 Michael Carr  
Kenneth Deaven  
Berl Duvall

Michael Michalek  
Thomas Otte  
Andrew Womeldorf  
29 Gina Congie  
Hanna Mowry  
30 Larry Binger  
Austin Walters

## July

02 Michael Markovcy  
George Westbrook  
03 Brendan Beck  
04 Joseph Senick  
05 Margaret Gesiskie  
07 Paul Carrulo  
08 Leona Cinciripini  
09 Theodore Anspach  
12 John Allman Jr.  
16 Taylor Strang  
Richard Griffin  
17 Robert Cinciripini  
Sherry Lightner  
18 Sarah Yost  
Donald Speicher  
19 Michael Salasky  
21 Daniel Hika  
Warren Getz  
22 Phillip Allen  
24 Jerald Johnson  
Jamie Morris  
26 Linda Berkheiser  
Andrew Ogdin  
28 Jeffrey Kabanuk  
Gary Robertson  
29 John Larese  
30 Michael Offen  
Timothy Sager

## ADVERTISING in THE PARASCOPE

The Parascope is published bi-monthly. Deadline for submission of ad copy for the May-June issue will be 10 May 2023.

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 the June meeting will be held in-person for members in the Erie, Pa. area. Membership meetings offer a time and place to share experiences, to learn about important developments, and to provide important information to the chapter that it may wish to investigate or distribute. See the back page for information about June's meeting. As of this printing, President Mark Rosensteel plans to be in Erie to attend the meeting at the Erie VA Medical Center.

## MEMBERSHIP TOTALS AS OF 22 APRIL 2023

Service connected	139
Non-service connected	<u>101</u>
TOTAL	240
Annual Associate Members	16
Lifetime Associate Members	<u>70</u>
TOTAL	86

## 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 L. Anderson, John H. Beitler, Paul N. Carrulo, John H. Conrad, James D. Evans, Jerald R. Johnson, Donald G. King, Michael A. Offen, Thomas H. Parke, and Gary Robertson**

## Bill Schenker, longtime member and past president

William K. Schenker of McCandless Township, Allegheny County, Pa., died on 27 February 2023. He was 73 years old. Bill served in the U.S. Air Force from 1968 to 1972. Bill was a retired certified public accountant.

Bill joined what was then the Tri-State Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America in 1989. For one year spanning 1992 and 1993, he served as chapter president.

Bill and his wife, Lois, were continuously in touch with the chapter, appearing regularly at the annual banquet, and Bill called the office from time to time with helpful ideas and observations.

His family was involved with the chapter. In the years right after the Americans with Disabilities Act, Lois wrote articles for The Parascope on how various institutions and facilities were meeting—or not meeting—the law's new provisions. One of their sons, Craig, designed the chapter's first web site.

Our deepest condolences go out to Lois and all of Bill's family.

## We welcome new Life Members—

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

**Angelo B. Degree Sr.**, Lansdowne, Navy  
**Stephen G. Miller**, Cape May Point, N.J., Army  
**Joseph M. Senick**, Collingdale, Navy  
**Albert E. Seidel**, Lancaster, Air Force  
**William E. Sullivan**, Auburn, N.Y., Air Force

## and we mourn the passing of members

**Douglas Dean** of Charleroi on 20 January 2023. He was a Navy veteran and a three-year Keystone PVA member.

**Paul S. Gatalski** of Bethel Park on 15 July 2022. He was a veteran of the Marine Corps and was a Keystone chapter member since 2011.

**Paul R. Gray** of Washington, Pa. on 10 March 2023. He was a Navy veteran and nine-year Keystone PVA.

**William K. Schenker** of Allison Park on 27 February 2023. Bill was an Air Force veteran and a Keystone PVA member since 1989.

**James D. Simmons Jr.** of Charleroi on 20 January 2023. He was a Navy veteran and a 29-year Keystone PVA member.

*We regret that we sometimes learn about the passing of members well past the dates of their deaths.*





## Red boxes, green boxes: Donations support Keystone Paralyzed Veterans



This donation box is on the premises of the Sunoco gas station and mini-mart at 5690 William Penn Highway (U.S. Route 22), Export, Pa, between Murrysville and Delmont in Westmoreland County. As always, our thanks to the owners of this Sunoco station for hosting this box, and to the generous donors who place gently-used household goods and clothing in the box. For information about what can be placed in these boxes, call 412-469-9663.

### 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 “ammo” boxes

The modified ammunition box shown below 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. Thanks to Bernice Shumac, wife of life member George Shumac, who has placed boxes for us in Ashville, Pa., not too far from Altoona!



### 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](http://www.kpva.org)

[keystoneparavets@gmail.com](mailto: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

Rex Nichols—Deputy Representative

### 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

*For both campuses:*

Tom Strang—VAVS Representative

### 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, 10 JUNE 2023**

(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

**Special invitation to members in the Erie area to join in person!**

### Join by Zoom videoconference.

Members who reside outside the Erie area 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 02 June 2023**

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.