



Keystone Chapter

# THE PARASCOPE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE KEYSTONE CHAPTER  
OF THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA  
VOLUME XXI, ISSUE 3  
MAY-JUNE 2023

## Air rifle clinic and competition resumes

The annual Air Rifle Clinic and Competition held its first event since 2019 in April 2023 at the Encompass Health rehabilitation hospital, formerly HealthSouth Harmarville. The event drew competitors and volunteers in pre-pandemic numbers, as shown in the photo below. In the photo at right, Chad Evans (standing, blue shirt) is shown working with some of the participants during the clinic portion of the two-day program. Chad organized and conducted the event; he is a recreation therapist at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. Keystone PVA's volunteer coordinator, Agnes Strang, provided the Keystone chapter's support.

Competition results follow in the two categories: SH1, in which the competitors are able to support their air rifles without a support, and SH2, in which the competitors use supports.

SH1 first: David Gifford  
SH1 second: Ed Terle  
SH1 third: Lyle Ourada

SH2 first: John Kellner  
SH2 second: Tom Strang  
SH2 third: Mark Rosensteel

The organizers are especially grateful for the support of Joe Kramer of Altamira, LLC, for a grant that covered all of the out-of-pocket costs.



The next Membership Meeting will be on Saturday, 12 August 2023! [Details on back page](#)

Paralyzed Veterans  
of America,  
Keystone Chapter  
*Chapter founded 1960*

**President**

Mark O. Rosensteel

**Vice President**

Sean M. Ferry

**Secretary**

Dane R. Smith

**Treasurer**

William D. Jakovac

**Directors**

Joseph A. Dunn

William D. Lightner

Chris Fidler

David B. Gifford

Tom Strang

**Advocacy Director**

*To be named*

**Fundraising Coordinator**

William D. Jakovac

**Hospital Visitation Coordinator**

Chris Fidler

**Legislative Director**

Chris Fidler

**Membership Officer**

Tom Strang

**MS Committee Representative**

Peter K. Townsend Jr.

**Service Officer**

*To be named*

**Sports Director**

Dane R. Smith

**Volunteer Coordinator**

Agnes Strang

**National Director**

William D. Jakovac

**National Service Officers**

See page 7

**Executive Director**

Joseph W. Dornbrock

**Bookkeeper**

Nancy F. Campbell

Annual independent audit  
conducted by  
Kimberly Y. Donovan, CPA

# 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 after that. 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. **SEE PAGE 9.**

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.

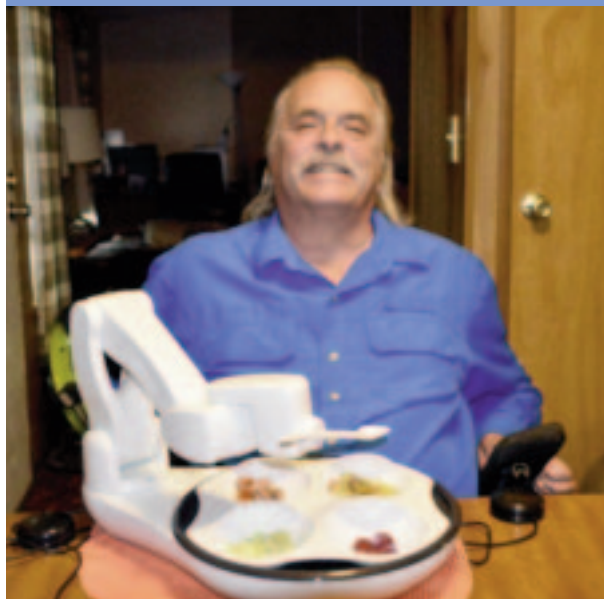
**Recreation expenses** are incurred when a member buys a hunting or fishing license, participates in the chapter bass tournament or goes bowling, obtains a membership in a sportsmen’s club or a fitness club, or participates in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, the Buckeye Wheelchair Games, or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



obi

INDEPENDENT  
EATING  
IS POSSIBLE

**TRY OBI!**

Request to try Obi and  
experience  
independent eating  
in your home!

**CONTACT US  
TODAY!**

- Eat what you want, when you want!
- Easy to use and easy to clean
- Custom positions and switches

**Qualifying veterans may receive  
Obi at no cost through the VA.**

Manufactured in the USA

[VA@MeetObi.com](mailto:VA@MeetObi.com) (844) 435-7624 [www.MeetObi.com](http://www.MeetObi.com)

# 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.)* This year, on 05 May, I handcycled the Pittsburgh Marathon in 2 hours, 26 minutes and 19 seconds. I was not able to train for this because of the weather, but my goal was 2:30:00, so I beat that.

Rory Cooper sped along to a 2:05:04 finish. He's a tough guy to keep up with!

I need to get another gear set for my bike. I do not have a low enough gear to be able to take the Pittsburgh hills. All the riders who finished before me have a really low gear. I was passed by one female handcycler about two-thirds of the way into the race, I tried as hard as I could to catch up to her but I could not. I always get caught near the race's two-thirds point by the elite runners. They are amazing! We play back and forth with one another—on the hills they catch me and the down hills I pull away from them, over and over until we get to the finish line.

I also had an excellent escort, Shawn. The H-Cat riders are set up by Daniel Fisher and Dr. Cooper. Shawn was able to stay in front of me the entire race, pointing out the direction of the turns, clearing the roads of people and even encouraging me sometimes. Shawn was the best escort I have had on any race!

Some upcoming events in Pittsburgh that include a handcycling division are the Great Race on 22-23 September, and the EQT Pittsburgh 10 Miler on 06 November.



## Buckeye Games at the SPIRE Institute

In-person Buckeye Wheelchair Games at the SPIRE Institute in Geneva, northeast Ohio resumed in April. Participating in the two days of competition from the Keystone chapter were Sean Ferry (above in the royal blue shirt), Rory Cooper, and Bill Jakovac. Events included air rifle, archery, billiards, boccia, field events, slalom, swimming, and weightlifting.

The Buckeye Games provide a good warmup for the annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games, to be held this year in Portland, Oregon, in July. The chapter's athletes there will be Sean Ferry, John Kellner, and Mark Rosensteel.

*Continued on page 8*

## 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 May 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	311	215	142
Mark Rosensteel	179	478	161	21	15	147

# FREEDOM · INDEPENDENCE · iBOT®

Climb stairs independently and MORE in the iBOT® Personal Mobility Device!

- ★ Available Nationwide
- ★ NO CHARGE for Qualified Veterans
- ★ Backed by the VA FSS #36F79721D0202

Contact Mobius Mobility or your  
VA Physician / Therapist to see  
if the iBOT® PMD is right for you.

**MOBIUS  
MOBILITY**



☎ 1-833-3GO-IBOT  
(1-833-346-4268)

🌐 [mobiusmobility.com](http://mobiusmobility.com)

✉ [info@mobiusmobility.com](mailto:info@mobiusmobility.com)

📷 @mobiusmobility

📘 iBOT® by Mobius Mobility

🎵 @mobiusmobility

# National Director's Report . . . . . Bill Jakovac, National Director

The 77th Annual Convention of the Paralyzed Veterans of America was held in Omaha, Nebraska, 9-13 May 2023. All 33 chapters were represented.

PVA's national Board of Directors addressed 12 business resolutions, which are PVA's official, binding actions regarding PVA's actions. Some were simply clerical and were easily approved. The more involved resolutions were:

## 23-M-1: Bylaw Amendments for Leadership Titles and PVA Location

PVA moved into a new building at the beginning of 2023, which required a change in the bylaws. I had no problem with that change. The second part of this resolution was to change national leadership titles to reflect the "industry's best practices." I spoke against this part. It was approved 26 for, seven against, and no abstentions (26-7-0). Passage means that the national PVA president shall now be known as the chairman of the Board of Directors. The executive director is now the chief executive officer. The editor of PVA Publications, which publishes PN Magazine and Sports 'n Spokes, is now the editor-in-chief of PVA Publications.

## 23-M-2: PVA Sexual Harassment Policy

Updated the policy in the Administrative Manual. Passed 33-0-0

## 23-M-7: PVA Disaster Relief Program

This formalized PVA's Disaster Relief Program which offers a grant of a maximum of \$1,500 to members requiring assistance with emergency relief. Passed 33-0-0. [Keystone PVA has just established its own disaster relief policy, which makes up to \$500 available to a member who experiences a disaster event.]

There was a presentation on direct marketing which explained how the process worked, how to improve keeping donors, and detailed the many costs of getting donations. Future presentations will include digital means and QR codes.

Another presentation was made by the information technology (IT) director. The IT department was tasked with the transfer of PVA's computers and related systems from the nine floors of the old headquarters and into a single floor in a new building. The department obtained new servers and processors, new laptops for all 247 national employees, and the security and word applications—everything from scratch. Then IT staff had to teach everyone how to use them. The department had to program everything into each laptop. The cost of this equipment, transfer, and training was figured into the selling of the old building.

Discussion of the annual PVA budget was not too involved.

There will be six annual PVA bowling events since PVA broke away from American Wheelchair Bowlers Association last year.

The national PVA elects officers, collectively known as the Executive Committee, every year at the Convention. Effective 01 July (the beginning of the national PVA's fiscal year), the officers will be:

Chairman of the Board of Directors: **Robert Thomas**      Senior Vice President: **Hack Albertson**  
Vice Presidents: **Tammy Jones, Ken Ness, Ann Robinson, and Josue Cordova**  
Treasurer: **Tom Wheaton**      Secretary: **Marcus Murray**

Keystone PVA congratulates all, and we note that Robert Thomas and Ken Ness have been PVA vice presidents assigned as this chapter's "liaison vice president," a link in the line of authority between the chapter and the national PVA. We look forward to working with all national officers as well as the superb national PVA staff.

# Chapter offices and service offices have different purposes

Most PVA **service offices** are each staffed by a full-time, highly trained, professional “national” service officer (NSO) and an administrative assistant. They are all about obtaining a veteran’s VA benefits, especially health care benefits for paralyzed veterans. Each office is funded and staffed through the national office of the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

There are PVA service offices in 60 large and medium American cities, located so that the service officers can visit spinal cord injury clinics and centers in VA medical centers.

The **chapter office** serves paralyzed veterans who join voluntarily, at no charge, and provides a more-or-less local office for paralyzed vets to provide additional lines of communication to them; to work closely with nearby VA medical center personnel, especially each hospital’s spinal cord injury (SCI) clinic; and encouragement to get active, especially by participating in sports.

There are 33 chapters across the United States. Only three states have more than one chapter (California, Florida and Texas), which means that the remaining chapters are even more spread out.

Chapters and service offices are independent of one another but work together for the same mission: better health, mobility, and activity for paralyzed vets.

We are now listing four PVA service offices (below). There is no chapter specifically serving paralyzed vets in New York, so we are listing the service offices in Buffalo and Syracuse for our members in those areas. Also changed are the phone numbers; there are no longer toll free numbers for any of these offices.

Spread thin as we are, the recent boom in video meeting services such as Zoom has made get-togethers and formal meetings easier, though nothing beats in-person events. For five VA medical centers, we have “site leaders,” members who represent the chapter and check in with the spinal cord clinic staff to see if we can be of assistance to them in serving our paralyzed veterans. In most cases, they are also VA voluntary service representatives and they are listed on the back page of The Parascope. They make it possible for the chapter to have a presence in many of the locations most important to our members. **Any member who would like to serve as a deputy representative to back them up should contact the chapter office.**

## NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICES

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

Western Pennsylvania: Pittsburgh, 412-395-6255  
1000 Liberty Avenue, Room 1602, Pittsburgh PA 15222

**Brent Madison**, National Service Officer II; **Marissa Sabatucci**, Secretary

Eastern Pennsylvania: Philadelphia, 215-381-3057  
5000 Wissahickon Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19144

**Joseph Weeks**, Senior National Service Officer; **Violet Graham**, Senior Secretary

Western New York: Buffalo, 716-857-3353  
130 S. Elmwood Avenue, Suite 621, Buffalo NY 14202

**Matthew Wezka**, National Service Officer II; **Victoria Gawne**, Secretary II

Central New York State: Syracuse, 315-425-4400, ext. 53317  
800 Irving Avenue, Room C419, Syracuse NY 13210

**Charles Tocci**, Area Manager

# Sports and Recreation Report *Continued from page 4*

*(The following report was submitted by Tom Strang.)*

## **Whitetails for Warriors Hunt**

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 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.)



At the Buckeye Games in April at the SPIRE Institute, left to right: **Bill Jakovac, Lynnette Ferry, Jean Jakovac, Rosi Cooper, Sean Ferry, and Rory Cooper.**

## **Volunteer from home!**

The Veterans Health Administration has established the "Compassionate Contact Corps," an outreach program in which volunteers reach out by telephone to veterans that provides conversation, companionship, support, and another link for the veteran to the health care to which he or she is entitled.

The program is in operation at two VA hospitals in Pennsylvania that we are aware of: VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, 412-822-3084, and at the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center, 570-824-3521, ext. 27448.

This program gives a volunteer the opportunity to serve from home. There are no medical or home care duties associated with it, and generally asks for service one or two times a week for 15 to 60 minutes each time.

Keystone PVA will ask that, like all volunteering, that the program participant reports the hours spent so that we can keep track of this service.

MAXIM HEALTHCARE SERVICES  
**You Served Us;  
Now Let Us  
Serve You.**

Maxim Healthcare Services offers a variety of home care services that allow veterans to receive care in the comfort of home. We serve veterans with ALS, brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, tracheostomies, ventilators and more.

We work with the VA, TRICARE and CHAMPVA to serve veterans and their families.

**Contact us today!**  
[www.maximhealthcare.com](http://www.maximhealthcare.com)







# 32nd annual Keystone PVA Kennywood Picnic

Wednesday, 19 July 2023

Kennywood Park, 4800 Kennywood Boulevard  
West Mifflin PA 15122

The park is open for rides from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Keystone PVA member picnic served in Pavilion #8 from  
4 p.m. to 5 p.m.; door prizes awarded during the picnic

All **life members, associate members, volunteers** and their **immediate family (including grandchildren)** may attend at no charge for admission and picnic, but must pay in advance and will have checks returned at the picnic. Caregivers are considered "immediate family" for this event. Limit six family members per party.

All others are welcome to attend at the discounted pass/picnic cost of \$59 per person\*.

Picnic includes charbroiled hamburgers, hot dogs, BBQ boneless chicken, baked beans, cole slaw, potato salad, and fountain beverages.

*Kennywood Park has changed its policy on how the picnic lunch is charged. It is now bundled into **group admission passes**, and cannot be separately ordered. Therefore, the admission pass and picnic cost is combined into one single price per person, no matter the age.*

*This is a Keystone PVA membership event. Members and guests are asked to attend on this day only and be present for the picnic, 4 to 5 p.m. Travel to and from the picnic is not eligible for reimbursement from the chapter.*

**Name**

**Pass and meal cost: \$59 per person**

*\*Parking not included in price*

(Member or volunteer) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Family member) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Family member) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Family member) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Family member) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Family member) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total—write this check to "Keystone PVA." It will be returned to you at the picnic: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Additional non-family guest) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Additional non-family guest) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total—write this check *separately from the first check* to "Keystone PVA." \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE to order passes and meals:  
01 JULY 2023**

**MAIL this form and your check(s) to  
Keystone PVA, 1113 Main Street,  
Pittsburgh PA 15215**

**Passes will be first-class mailed  
to the address you show here:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

# Elections for PVA Keystone Chapter directors

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

There are three seats opening at the end of this fiscal year. All newly-elected directors will begin their terms on 01 October 2023; those terms end on 30 September 2026.

The three candidates who receive the highest numbers of votes will be elected to the three-year terms. **Voting members are strongly encouraged to vote as soon as they receive their ballots by first class mail. Under no circumstances will “replacement” ballots be issued.**

The ballot is being mailed to all voting members by first class mail during the first week in July. Enclosed with the ballot are 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 2023.

**All ballots will be tabulated at the chapter office on 11 August 2023.**

**The results of the tabulation will be announced at the Membership Meeting on Saturday, 12 August 2023.**

## Candidates for Director *Vote for no more than three, including write-ins:*

### Sean M. Ferry

I would like to start by thanking you for taking the time to read this and the rest of our Keystone PVA newsletter. I am a 53-year-old Air Force veteran who is very interested in getting your vote to remain on the Board of Directors.



I became a member of the Air Force Security Police right out of high school, from 1988-91. During my service I was in Fort Worth, Texas and Suwon, Korea. After the military I pursued a career in the machining industry due to the abundance of machining companies in my hometown of Erie, Pennsylvania. I was born, raised, and still live in Erie and enjoy being active as a member of the Keystone PVA. I am also a member of local American Legion Post 285 and United Spinal Grassroot Advocacy. I have traveled to Washington, DC several times and participated during the years of Zoom calls to take part in the SCIRP (Spinal Cord Injury Research Program). I have participated in active panels for five years with the program. I enjoy working on research projects with several doctors from the Cleveland VA.

I have been married to my wife, Lynnette, 23 years, and we are blessed with four children and currently six grandchildren. I was injured in 2014 after falling 12 feet while trying to build a deer stand, becoming a C4 quadriplegic. I feel so lucky to have been accepted into our chapter and I sincerely enjoy doing my best to help us grow. I am active in our government relations and help the PVA in advocacy for our fellow veterans.

As one of your Board members I will work to help fellow veterans in any way I am able to. I will also maintain positive and encouraging advocacy to promote the membership and reputation of our chapter.

### David B. Gifford

I am David Gifford and I am asking for your vote to become a member of the Board of Directors for Keystone Paralyzed Veterans. I am an active member since 2013. I have been involved as a hospital liaison for 3 years and I enjoy visiting Veterans at Aspinwall VA. I am also a member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America Racing team for 4 years.



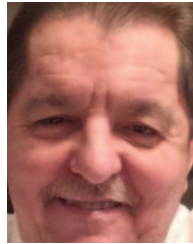
I will bring life experience, professionalism and a willingness to serve the members of our Chapter. My focus will be to modernize and make improvements without losing the positive experiences that encourage our members to remain enthusiastic and active. I will strive to promote new and novel events for our members as well as improving existing ones. I believe everyone's opinion and ideas are important. If elected, I will work diligently on behalf of the organization in whatever capacities are required of me and promise to represent the entire membership to the best of my capabilities.

If needed my summarized military career:

I joined the Army active duty as an Infantryman in September 1987. My first duty station was Fort Lewis Wa. I was a Motorized and Mechanized squad leader with TOW missile systems. I reclassified to Mechanic and relocated to Fort Wainwright Ak. I spent a month in Japan supporting my 105mm Artillery unit. I left active duty 1995 and joined the Pa. Army National Guard where I continued to develop my mechanic skills. I was trained as a wrecker operator and truck driver. I was the Master Driver for B.Co.128 as the driver licensing official. I stayed active till 2014 when I retired SFC/E7 due to my SCI.

### **William D. Lightner**

I'm running for the Board of Directors (BOD) once again. I feel I would be a great candidate for the following reasons: As your Board of Directors member, I bring lots of experience both on and off the BOD.



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

I'm also the site leader for the James E Van Zandt VA Medical Center in Altoona Pa and have been for decades. I've received pins, plaques, and certificates for my volunteer hours, approximately 6000. Helping our members and all Veterans in one way or another gives me much pleasure.

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

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

Thanks for your consideration and vote,

### **Peter K. Townsend Jr.**

It has been an honor to be a member of Keystone Chapter for the past several years. Thanks to the assistance of Paralyzed Veterans of America, I am currently a 100% service-disabled veteran. I served in the United States Army from 1982 to 1986. While on active duty I served as an Infantry Squad Leader in Bravo Co., 1st Battalion 504th Infantry in the 82nd Airborne Division at Ft. Bragg, NC. I was also stationed at Ft. Lewis, Washington, and at Camp Kittyhawk in the Republic of Korea. I also served in the 28th Infantry Division of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard until 1990. Following my military service, I used my educational benefits to go to college where I earned degrees in Nursing (RN) and as a Physician Assistant. During my career in healthcare, I worked as a Physician Assistant for over twenty years before retiring due to complications of Multiple Sclerosis.



Since joining PVA, I have had the honor to serve as the VA Voluntary Services Representative to the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center from PVA, where I volunteer as a Red Coat Ambassador. More recently, I have been appointed to serve as the MS Point of Contact to the MS Committee at PVA National. And most recently, I had the privilege to travel to Washington D.C. as part of Keystone Chapter's legislative advocacy delegation where I had the opportunity to meet with members of Congress to advocate for our members, and all our fellow veterans with disabilities. It has been my honor to be a member of Paralyzed Veterans of America, and I respectfully ask for your support as a candidate for election to the Board of Directors. It is in this new capacity that I wish to continue to serve our members and our fellow disabled veterans across the state and around the country.

Thank you for your consideration!

The statements herein are those of the candidates. Each candidate takes full responsibility for the content of his or her statement. No member of the staff or member of the Board of Directors (other than said candidate who may be currently serving as a member of the Board) or Keystone PVA is responsible for the content of any candidate's statement.

# 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!

## July

02 George Westbrook  
 03 Brendan Beck  
 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  
 Alicia Luberto  
 Jamie Morris  
 26 Linda Berkheiser  
 Andrew Ogdin  
 28 Jeffrey Kabanuk  
 Gary Robertson  
 29 John Larese  
 30 Michael Offen  
 Timothy Sager

If we missed your birthday, let us know!

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

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

## August

01 Richard Snedden  
 03 Carl F. Raymond  
 Robert Serena

04 Michael R. Eaton  
 06 William Zally Jr.  
 08 Max Jackowski  
 Jim Malanowski  
 12 David Gifford  
 Joseph Zimmett  
 Raymond Boea  
 13 Matthew Schmalzriedt  
 15 Daniel P. Smith  
 15 Loren Zamiska  
 17 David Lynch  
 18 Gary Martisofski  
 Ronald Speight  
 19 Curtis H. Paschal  
 20 Robert Luke Liggett

21 Vincent Dvorak  
 24 Lester Neimiller  
 26 Gregory Foster  
 29 Timothy Anick

## September

03 Earl Corp  
 Robert Pamplin  
 05 Beth Duvall  
 Larry Spahr Jr.  
 07 Clarissa Congie  
 Kathleen Kleinmann  
 Rody Rogers  
 09 Paula Schultz  
 12 William Ferguson Jr.  
 Stephen G. Miller  
 13 Stephen P. Lee  
 14 Barbara Plants  
 15 John B. Hofmeister  
 16 Leo Latona  
 17 Angelo Degree  
 18 Gary Egri  
 19 Fred Frank  
 Jack Zavilla  
 20 Rob Morris  
 Walter McGee  
 21 Jeffrey Hanlin Sr.  
 Michael S. Martin  
 23 Carol E. Reber  
 25 David Wingard  
 26 John Cotto  
 28 Richard Barbara  
 29 George E. Dye

## ADVERTISING in THE PARASCOPE

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

Membership Meetings will be held as “hybrid” meetings for the foreseeable future, all of which will be available via some form of video such as Zoom videoconference, and with a “primary” in person location.

The June meeting was held in-person for members in the Erie, Pa. area at the Erie VA Medical Center. Chapter President Mark Rosensteel visited the meeting and presided from there. Eight people were present in Erie and another 10 joined by Zoom. Thanks to Sean and Lynnette Ferry for arranging the meeting in the upper parking lot pavilion, for checking that a strong wi-fi signal was available for the video link, and for providing a picnic lunch.

The August Membership Meeting will be held similarly, with the chapter office in Sharpsburg designated the “in person” site. The office has a practical limit of about 15 people in the conference room, so members who plan to be there in person need to call the office to be sure there will be room and so that lunch can be planned.

The August Membership Meeting is the chapter’s official annual corporate meeting, which is required of any corporation in Pennsylvania, nonprofit or otherwise. It is also the meeting at which the results of the annual chapter Board of Directors election will be announced. See pages 10 and 11 and don’t forget to return your election ballot when it arrives by postal service.

**We welcome new Life Members—**  
*all communities are in Pennsylvania unless noted;  
 military branch is where each served:*

**Alicia Luberto** of Lansdale, Montgomery County, Army  
**Dennis D. Swogger** of Mercer, Mercer Co., Army  
**Charles W. Winbush Jr.** of Penn Hills, Allegheny County, Marine Corps

**and we mourn the passing of members**  
**John Schultz** of Erie, an associate member since 2015, on 05 May 2023.

**Thomas E. Mossellem** of Scott Township, Allegheny County, Pa., on 31 March 2023. He was an Air Force veteran and a Keystone PVA member since 2020.

**Larry D. Parisi** of Center Township, Butler County, Pa. on 06 February 2023. He was an Army veteran who joined Keystone PVA in 2022.

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

**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, John H. Conrad, James D. Evans, Jerald R. Johnson, Donald G. King, Michael A. Offen, Thomas H. Parke, and Gary Robertson**

**MEMBERSHIP TOTALS AS OF  
 16 JUNE 2023**

Service connected	138
Non-service connected	<u>100</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>238</b>
 Annual Associate Members	 16
Lifetime Associate Members	<u>70</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>86</b>



**David Gifford, Mark Rosensteel** and the chapter minivan rolled in the Lawrenceville Memorial Day Parade on 29 May for the first time.

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



This donation box is in New Alexandria, Westmoreland County, Pa. on William Penn Highway (U.S. Route 22) on the grounds of the New Alexandria Firemen's Hall. As always, our thanks to the Firefighters 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

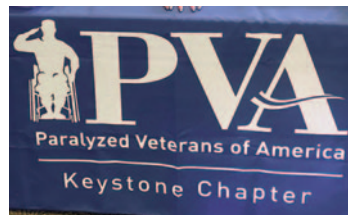
### Wilkes-Barre VAMC

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, 12 AUGUST 2023**

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

**Primary site: Keystone PVA office,**

1113 Main St., Sharpsburg (Pittsburgh PA 15215)

### Join by Zoom videoconference.

Members who reside outside the Pittsburgh region 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 04 August 2023**

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

**Attendance will be limited.**

## 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.