



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 5 SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2023

Annual Banquet features awards and recognitions

Agnes and Tom Strang received the Inspiration Award at the chapter's Annual Awards Banquet on 05 October at the Hampton Event Center in Richland Township, Allegheny County. Presented by President **Mark Rosensteel** (right), Tom (seated center) and Agnes (behind him), surrounded by family, were recognized for their endurance over the past few years, surviving a house fire and other challenges in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, and still serving the chapter as the volunteer coordinator (Agnes) and member of the Board of Directors (Tom).



More on page 8

End-of-summer Bass Tournament heralds bigger event in 2024



Members of the chapter and members of the Outcast Bass Club held a second 2023 Team Bass Tournament at the American Legion Post 940 marina on the Monongahela River again in September. Plans are underway for a bigger tournament in June 2024 with more participants and bigger prizes on the 20th anniversary of the signature sporting event. More on page 8.

The next Membership Meeting will be on Saturday, 09 December 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

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William D. Jakovac

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William D. Lightner

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Tom Strang

Peter K. Townsend Jr.

Advocacy Director

Peter K. Townsend Jr.

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Chris Fidler

Membership Officer

Tom Strang

MS Committee Representative

Peter K. Townsend Jr.

Service Officer

Joseph A. Dunn

Sports Director

Dane R. Smith

Volunteer Coordinator

Agnes Strang

National Director

William D. Jakovac

National Service Officers

See page 7

Executive Director

Joseph W. Dornbrock

**Membership and Projects
Coordinator**

Emma R. Goldstein

Bookkeeper

Nancy F. Campbell

Annual independent audit
conducted by

Kimberly Y. Donovan, CPA

Cooper receives national tech award

Rory A. Cooper, Ph.D., director of the Human Engineering Research Laboratories in Pittsburgh, received the National Medal of Technology and Innovation for his work in rehabilitation and support for disabled people.

Dr. Cooper was cited "For empowering the lives of millions of Americans. By inventing and developing cutting-edge wheelchair technologies and mobility devices, cultivating the next generation of rehabilitation engineers, and championing wounded veterans and students with disabilities, he moves us closer to being a nation that is accessible for all."

The award was presented at the White House by President Joseph R. Biden Jr. on 24 October. Dr. Cooper was among 12 honorees in 2023.

The honor is granted by the President of the United States to American inventors and innovators who have made significant contributions to the development of new and important technology. The award was created by Congress in 1980 under the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act.

Dr. Cooper has been a member of the Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America since 1994 and of the Paralyzed Veterans of America since 1984.

Volunteer from home!

Consider the Compassionate Contact Corps.

The Veterans Health Administration has established the "Compassionate Contact Corps," an outreach program in which volunteers reach out by telephone to veterans to provide 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.

The VA Voluntary Services offices at each VA medical center has other volunteer opportunities, most of them in-hospital, that anyone may also wish to consider. Keystone PVA has many volunteers, members and nonmembers, who serve at their local VA medical centers and get credit for the hours they put in. We have volunteers who have been credited with thousands of hours over the years, and many who have put in fewer. All are of value to our fellow veterans.

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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.

Bowling league season ends, awards are handed out, new season begins

John Kellner was recognized for his top single-game score of the season—256— and Sean Ferry was honored for the high series of the season—563—at the Keystone

PVA Annual Awards Banquet in early October. Each award included a plaque and a cash prize of \$75.

Continued on page 5



The entirety of the Keystone PVA Bowling League met the day after the Annual Awards Banquet to get the new bowling season off to a collegial start. Left to right are **Bill Jakovac, Sean Ferry, Lynnette Ferry** (who is not a competitor in the league), **John Kellner**, and **Mark Rosensteel**. They met at Family Bowlaway in Butler Kittanning, Pa.

The chapter's bowling league does not usually get together in the same place. Participation in the league is up to each life member who wants to bowl at a bowling alley near to each. The chapter will reimburse up to three games a week for the life member and an attendant. Contact information for Bill and Mark is below.

2022-23 season Keystone PVA bowling FINAL RESULTS

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

	High Game	High Series	High Average	Strikes	Games	Average
Sean Ferry	211	563	191	45	24	159
Bill Jakovac	145	379	126	17	18	107
John Kellner	256	526	175	475	304	143
Mark Rosensteel	179	478	161	21	15	147

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.

Chapter president, sports director attend preseason kickoff event

Keystone PVA President Mark Rosensteel and Sports Director Dane Smith were guests of Draft 412 founder Joe Kuklis at his company's Preseason Kickoff and Watch Party event in late August at City Winery in Pittsburgh.

Mr. Kuklis' event benefited the Ryan Shazier Fund for Spinal Rehabilitation, the mission of which is to give those with spinal cord injuries and their caregivers the support, resources and funding they need to live independent and meaningful lives.

The event featured food and beverages during the live telecast of the Pittsburgh Steelers' preseason game vs. the Atlanta Falcons. The event was emceed by KDKA radio morning show co-host Larry Richert and featured commentary during breaks in the game from Mr. Shazier, Mr. Kuklis, and others.



(Front) Mark Rosensteel. (Back, left to right) Ryan Shazier, Joe Kuklis, and Dane Smith.

Bowling league starts new season

Continued from page 4

Bill Jakovac, who bowls in the league and reports the scores, said that the four participants rolled 361 games, made 558 strikes, and knocked down 51,463 pins during the year!

Sean Ferry arranged for a "traveling" trophy to be made for the person who has the high game each year. In the photo at right, John Kellner shows the trophy, a golden pin, with his name inscribed on it while Bill Jakovac looks on during the Annual Awards Banquet.

All four league members traveled to Butler, Pa. the day after the banquet. Mark Rosensteel called it "the best competition we have had in a long time."

He added, "If we could have more events like this I think it would make bowling more fun for everyone. It brings a sense of togetherness and ramps up the competition."



Sports and Recreation Report

Summer bass competition results

Continued from page 1

Team Bass Tournament co-director Tom Strang declared the Monongahela River “fished out” by the time he and his fellow anglers and boat captains cast off for the late summer tournament on 10 September at the American Legion Post 940 marina in West Brownsville. The weather delayed the start, but seven teams soon took to the Monongahela River for the second bass fishing event of the year. The tournament is co-sponsored and conducted by Keystone PVA and the Outcast Bass Club.

The biggest bass, at 2.64 lbs., was pulled in by Keystone PVA member Jorden Jones. The second biggest bass weighed 2.62 lbs. and was caught by Outcast Bass Club President Larry Freeman.

Overall results, with the weight of the catch, the boat captain's name, the disabled angler's name, and the total prize money for the team:

- First place, 7.28 lbs: Larry Freeman and John Kellner, \$550.
- Second, 5.86 lbs: Bill Kronander and Jorden Jones, \$350.
- Third: 4.46 lbs: Mason Long and Jim Moore, \$200.
- Fourth, 2.67 lbs: Luke Pecjak and Sean Ferry, \$150.
- Fifth (tie), 1.62 lbs: Steve Shawley, Frank Steck and Dominic Dorazio, \$50.
- Fifth (tie), 1.62 lbs: Scott Novak and Mark Rosensteel, \$50.
- Seventh, .76 lbs: Phillip Richardson and Tom Strang, \$25.



Erie VA Medical Center Director **John Gennaro** (left) presented Keystone PVA Erie VA Voluntary Service Representative **John Larese** an award for his lifetime (so far) volunteer service of 8,750 hours.

Did you read about Membership Programs on page 12?

Hunting, fishing, and the Wheelchair Games may not be your things. So check out the “Member Recreation Reimbursement Fund” details!

Bass fishing reminder!

Keystone PVA and the Outcast Bass Club are planning a bigger team bass tournament in June 2024 with more participants and bigger prizes. More details to come!

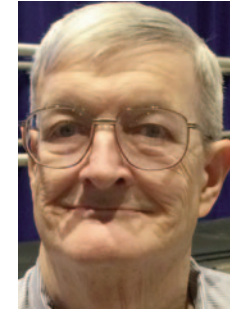
◀ Outcast Bass Club President **Larry Freeman** (standing, left) and boat captain **Luke Pecjak** (standing, right) watched as **Tom Strang** (seated, left) handed angler **Sean Ferry** his fourth-place plaque.

▼ Out on the water: **Frank Steck, Dominic Dorazio and Steve Shawley.**



All chapter officers re-elected, president makes appointments

The Board re-elected all of its officers to new one-year terms at its October 2023 Board meeting: President Mark Rosensteel, Vice President Sean Ferry, Secretary Dane Smith, and Treasurer Bill Jakovac. This is Mr Rosensteel's sixth term; Mr. Ferry's second; Mr. Smith's fifth; and Mr. Jakovac's—well, we lost count*.



Mark Rosensteel, Sean Ferry, Dane Smith, and Bill Jakovac.

At that meeting, Mr. Rosensteel made the following appointments, though some, such as chairperson for the Annual Awards Banquet, are *ex-officio*, that is, part of the job description of another position, in this case, vice president.

VAVS representatives:

Altoona: Bill Lightner

Butler: John Kellner

Erie: John Larese. Deputy: Rex Nichols

Lebanon: Chris Fidler

Pittsburgh: Sarah Jarvis

Wilkes-Barre: Peter Townsend

Site leaders:

All VAVS representatives are site leaders except for Pittsburgh, where the “office” is the “site leader.”

Today would be a good day to — volunteer!

See how many members, both life and associate, are helping do the work of Keystone Paralyzed Veterans! A great way to start is to ask one of the folks listed here if they can use some help. Want to contact one or more? Call the office and we'll put you in touch. Want to volunteer from home? See the Compassionate Contact Corps story on page 2.

**This is a joke, but only sort of. Bill was first elected treasurer in 2009 when officers were elected directly by the members for two-year terms each. This was a cumbersome method of electing officers that was out of sync with the three-year Board terms for other directors. Now, every seat on the Board is filled for three years, by electing or reelecting members in three staggered “classes.” At the first meeting of the fiscal year (October), officers are all elected for one-year terms by the whole Board. This is Bill's fifteenth year as treasurer.*

Positions required by national PVA:

Advocacy Director: Peter Townsend

Fundraising Coordinator: Bill Jakovac

Hospital Visitation Coordinator: Chris Fidler

Legislative Director: Chris Fidler

Membership Officer: Tom Strang

MS Committee Representative: Peter Townsend

Service Officer: Joe Dunn

Sports Director: Dane Smith

Volunteer Coordinator: Agnes Strang

Ex-officio positions:

Annual Banquet chairperson: Vice President

Budget and Finance Committee chairperson: Treasurer

Election officer: Membership officer, unless that person is on the ballot; then is appointed by the president.

Investment Committee chairperson: Treasurer

Kennywood Park Picnic chairperson: Vice President

Personnel Committee chairperson: President

Chapter positions:

ALS Support Group Coordinator: Patty Neeper

Bowling coordinator: Bill Jakovac

Chaplain: Lance Alexander

Election Tellers: Appointed by president 60 days from the election count

Operations and Bylaws Committee: Mark Rosensteel

Poster and Poem Contest Coordinator: Lynnette Ferry

Publications Editor: Joe Dornbrock

Webmaster: Bill Hoffman

Appointments to outside organizations:

Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission: Chris Fidler

Pennsylvania War Veterans Council: Chris Fidler,

Constance Snavely, and Joe Dunn (alternate).

Southwestern Veterans Center: Tim Sager

Sharing & Caring: Bill Jakovac

Keystone Paralyzed Veterans Annual Awards Banquet 2023



Top left: President **Mark Rosensteel** administers the oath of office for **Sean Ferry**, **Peter Townsend**, and **Joe Dunn** (by video) for their terms on the chapter Board of Directors.

Top right: **Lisa Elijah** of the PVA national office staff distributed lapel pins and certificates of completion of an online PVA advocacy course.

Middle left: Door prizes were distributed.

Middle center: **Philip Lawson** of Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey's office brings the mayor's greeting to the banquet guests.

Middle right: **Frank Steck** accepts the SCI Coordinator award for later delivery to Hema Murthy, M.D., SCI physician in the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System.

Bottom: **Sean Ferry** personally delivered the Volunteer of the Year Award to **John Larese** in Erie a few days after the banquet.



CHAPTER SPONSORSHIP FORM

2024 National Veterans Wheelchair Games New Orleans, Louisiana – 25 - 30 July 2024

This is page 1 of the sponsorship form. There are two pages.

The only purpose of this two-page form is to request financial support for transportation to and from the site of the Games and for lodging there.

To apply to participate in the Games, each athlete must download the National Veterans Wheelchair Games application form, which will be available after the first of the year from www.wheelchairgames.org/registration.

The athlete is responsible for completing the application form and following its instructions.

The deadline for National PVA to receive your application is expected to be on or around 15 April 2024.

All members, life and associate, planning to attend the 2024 National Veterans Wheelchair Games in New Orleans, Louisiana, and who want the chapter to pay for transportation and lodging must submit **both pages of this chapter sponsorship form** to Keystone PVA, 1113 Main Street, Pittsburgh PA 15215.

**ALL SPONSORSHIP FORMS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN 31 DECEMBER 2023.
THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.**

- Due to the inability of our members to earn sufficient Health and Recreation Points during the pandemic, these “points” will not be required for sponsorship eligibility in the chapter’s fiscal year 2024 (Oct. 1 to 30 Sep.).
- Circumstances, including the manner in which the Games are held, may change with little notice.
- Keystone PVA funds are limited, so the amount of chapter funding for each participant may depend on the total number of applicants and the budget limits set by Keystone PVA’s Board of Directors.
- Applicants for sponsorship will be notified of the decision of the Board of approval or denial after its January 2024 meeting. Travel and lodging arrangements will be made with each athlete by Keystone PVA following approval.

NAME: _____ DATE of BIRTH: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL _____

ATTENDANT’S NAME (if needed) _____

ATTENDANT’S DATE of BIRTH: _____

Please check either of the following that you need:

Hotel room

Air reservations

THIS FORM MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN 31 DECEMBER 2023

Please carefully read the statements on the second page of this form. Only ONE of the statements will apply to you (life or associate member). Print your name clearly on the line immediately below the section that applies to you, and sign and date on the next lines. Your signature at the end of the appropriate statement signifies your understanding and constitutes your agreement.

CHAPTER SPONSORSHIP FORM

This is page 2 of the sponsorship form for the 2024 NVWG. There are two pages.

Associate Member

I, _____ certify that I am an "Associate Member" in good standing of the Keystone Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (a.k.a. Keystone PVA) who expects to meet all conditions set by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and of Keystone PVA to participate in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (a.k.a. NVWG) in New Orleans, Louisiana, 25 to 30 July 2024.

I understand that because I am not paralyzed per the definitions accepted by the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Inc. (a.k.a. PVA), the Keystone PVA will not pay for my participation in the NVWG, and that I am obliged to repay Keystone PVA for any expenses for transportation or lodging that it makes on my behalf (for the purposes of obtaining any available discounted costs). I will make full repayment within six months of the conclusion of the NVWG.

Name (please print): _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Life (full voting) Member

I, _____ certify that I am an "Life Member" in good standing of the Keystone Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (a.k.a. Keystone PVA) who expects to meet all conditions set by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and of Keystone PVA to participate in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (a.k.a. NVWG) in New Orleans, Louisiana, 25 to 30 July 2024.

I understand that in participating in the NVWG, Keystone PVA will pay for lodging and transportation as follows: **LODGING:** No more than seven nights of single-room lodging per Life Member. Lodging expenses are limited to the room rental rate, directly associated taxes and fees, and any portage fees that may be imposed by the hotel. **TRANSPORTATION:** Chapter will reimburse each Life Member at a per-mile rate to be determined by the Board of Directors for direct, round-trip transportation from the Life Member's home to the airport from which the member is departing to attend the Games; parking at the airport capped at the reduced rate offered for adapted vehicles; and will pay for up to two round-trip air fares at the most economic available rates from the airport providing appropriate service nearest the member's home to Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. Member is responsible for arranging for transportation from Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport to lodging in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Keystone PVA is under no obligation to pay for any other expenses unless specifically permitted in advance by the Board of Directors. Should I become unable to participate in the NVWG because of circumstances demonstrably beyond my control (e.g., illness), I agree to notify Keystone PVA as soon as I know. Should I not notify Keystone PVA in a timely manner and Keystone PVA incurs expenses on my behalf, I will repay Keystone PVA for those expenses except when those circumstances arise within 48 hours of the start of the Games.

Name (please print): _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Home improvement companies donate windows to PVA member



Andersen Windows, O.C. Cluss Lumber, and Window Installation Specialists of Westmoreland County, Pa., combined to donate a complete set of new windows to Keystone PVA member Harry Hillen this past spring. Chuck Koval of Andersen Windows reached out to the chapter to get guidance on who might benefit from a full-house windows upgrade. The companies making the donation then made the selection of Mr. Hillen, who resides in Scottdale in Westmoreland County.

Keystone Paralyzed Veterans thanks Mr. Koval for all his work to make this possible, and thanks him, his company, and his partners for making a generous, timely gift to one of our paralyzed veterans.

The replacement crew. Chuck Koval of Andersen Windows is second from the left in the gray polo shirt; Bill Kish, the owner of Window Installation Specialists, is at the far right. Harry Hillen is seated, front.

One of the replaced windows: The old one on the left, the new one on the right.



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

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 & 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!

November

02 Anne Kiren
 03 Domenic Dorazio
 Paula Fox
 06 Charles Freed
 Michelle Shoop
 08 Gary Kirkendall
 09 Rory Cooper
 Raymond "Joe" Gilkinson
 James Harff
 Gregory Heinle
 12 Richard Sarocky
 14 Alex Dipko
 15 Janice Rapoza
 16 Raymond Castlebury
 18 Terry Greer
 Thomas Gunderman
 Rebecca Henderson
 Edwin Leeper
 Harry Wallis
 19 Larry Brown
 20 Gerald Longstreth
 21 Dane Smith
 22 James Jakubowski
 23 Agnes Strang
 Rebecca Strang
 25 Regis McManus Jr.
 27 Harley Marino
 28 Connor Fox Jr.
 29 Pamela Stania
 30 Sharon Lightner
 Dwight Morris

December

01 Brian Berkich
 Patrick Gantz
 Lisa Litzenberger
 Constance Snavelly
 03 Billy Henry

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 Michael W. Johnson
 06 William N. Wall
 07 Roger W. Baker
 William Lightner
 09 Joseph Jarvis
 William O'Sullivan
 Jeremy Pritts
 James Zeik
 10 Theodore Conrad
 Karen Switzer
 11 Marc McCoy
 13 Thomas Caufield
 James Evans
 14 Scott Hann
 15 Kurt Eisele
 Harry Hillen
 16 David Amaditz
 James Dray
 Sue Sarocky
 17 Kimberly Feathers

17 John Meinert
 19 Barbara Ebright
 Lawrence Wheeler
 20 Mark Babuschak
 22 Roberta Houston
 25 James King
 27 Joseph Pagan
 28 Thomas MacDonald
 29 Thomas Szmed
 30 Brittany Keenan

January

04 Keith W. Gilchrist
 Terrisa Hohn
 07 William Driscoll
 John Lightner
 James Moore
 08 Christopher Fidler
 Timothy Smiley
 09 Edward Fink
 Daryl Lee
 11 Robert Mitchell
 13 Raymond Lookhart
 14 Edith Bernstein
 16 Abigail Yaworski
 17 Don Bartholomew
 Joseph Kostich
 Jennifer Strang
 20 Dennis Fernandes
 Dennis Wilcox
 21 Tom W. Strang
 23 Richard Breneman
 Daniel J. Dougherty
 Doug R. Jones
 24 Stephen Zimmerman
 26 Jeffrey L. Ross
 28 John Feltovich
 29 Shirley Wheaton
 30 Matthew Fritz

ADVERTISING in THE PARASCOPE

The Parascope is published bi-monthly. Deadline for submission of ad copy for the November-December issue will be 15 November. 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 October meeting was held on Saturday the 14th, mostly on Zoom, though Chapter President Mark Rosensteel presided from the Chapter office in Sharpsburg. Altogether, eighteen people were present. Topics discussed were the chapter’s recent Annual Awards Banquet; a possible “bigger” bass tournament in 2024, the 20th anniversary of the chapter’s annual team bass tournament; the 2023 Poster and Poem Contest; and the activity in and around VA medical centers in Pennsylvania. The outcome of the annual Board directors officers’ election was announced; results are on page 7, along with a list of President Mark’s appointments.

The December Membership Meeting will be held both in person at the chapter office and on Zoom on Saturday the 9th. See the back page for details.

Why do we ask for an R.S.V.P.? The chapter has been asking for a “repondez s’il vous plait” (“respond, please”) since we began conducting Membership Meetings decades ago. We ask for your response if you will be attending an “in person” part of the meeting, such as our member meeting in June in Erie or at the office in Sharpsburg. We just need to know how much food to order!

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, and Gary Robertson

**MEMBERSHIP TOTALS AS OF
31 OCTOBER 2023**

Service connected	145
Non-service connected	<u>99</u>
TOTAL	244
Annual Associate Members	16
Lifetime Associate Members	<u>70</u>
TOTAL	86

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

Anthony L. Barton of Chambersburg, Franklin County, Air Force

Robert F. Garvin Jr. of Beaver, Beaver County, Air Force

Doug R. Jones of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Army

Kevin T. Lee of Danville, Montour County, Marine Corps

Harley J. Marino of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Army

Robert D. Mitchell of Bradford, McKean County, Army

Jeffrey L. Ross of Edinboro, Erie County, Army

Thomas D. Shaffer of Punxsutawney, Jefferson County, Navy

and we welcome new associate member
Abigail L. Yaworski of New Brighton, Beaver County

We mourn the passing of members

Paul N. Carruolo of Woodbury, Gloucester County, New Jersey on 25 July 2023, a Navy veteran who was a member since 1983.

Thomas H. Parke of Greensburg, Westmoreland County, on 27 November 2018. He was a Navy veteran and a member since 2006.

We regret that we sometimes do not learn about the passing of members until some time later.



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

Red boxes, green boxes: Donations support Keystone Paralyzed Veterans



This donation box is in Hopewell Township, Beaver County, in the 2400 block of Brodhead Road. Our thanks to the businesses and institutions that host boxes like this, and to the generous donors who place gently-used household goods and clothing in this box and others. 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.

PHOTO CREDITS: (Photos taken or provided by) Page 4, Jean Jakovac. Page 5, top: Marla Smith.

Page 8, bottom: Lynnette Ferry Page 11, all photos: Chuck Koval. Page 14: Jean Jakovac (guess whose feet!).

All other editorial photos by Keystone PVA staff, are file photos, or were submitted anonymously.

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.



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 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

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, 09 DECEMBER 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 01 December 2023

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

Attendance will be limited due to office size.

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 Parascope, 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 Parascope.