



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Keystone Chapter

THE PARASCOPE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE KEYSTONE CHAPTER
OF THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
VOLUME XXIV, ISSUE 2
MARCH-APRIL 2026

Keystone Paralyzed Veterans recognize achievements



At the Wilmington Area Elementary School in New Wilmington, Pa., second-grader **Collin Sarver** earned the top honor for his entry in the 1st-2nd grade poster division of the annual Poster and Poem Contest organized by Keystone PVA and the national PVA office. At the award presentation in early February, Collin was joined by his teacher, **Sara Telesz** (left) and his mother **Abby**, who is a chemistry teacher at the Wilmington Area High School. Seven-year-old Collin said that he is particularly interested in studying engineering.



On 18 February Keystone Chapter board member and hospital liaison to the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center **Peter Townsend** (seated) presented the 2025 Frank Steck SCI Coordinator Award to **Barbara Menzel**, R.N. Barbara retired in 2025 after more than 43 years of service to the veteran community in northeastern Pennsylvania! Barbara was unable to attend the Annual Awards Banquet in October, so this presentation was arranged later. We thank Nurse Menzel for her dedication and service to SCI/D veterans! Attending the presentation were (left to right) **Aime O'Malia**, Chief of the Center for Development and Civic Engagement; **Aaron McGinniss**, LSW, SCI/D Clinic Coordinator; Mr. Townsend; Ms. Menzel, and Dr. **Syed Ali Qadri**, SCI/D Clinic physician.

We're moving!

See page 2 for details

The April Membership Meeting will start at 12:45 p.m.—see page 10 and the back page

Paralyzed Veterans of America, Keystone Chapter

Chapter founded 1960

President

Mark O. Rosenstein

Vice President

Sean M. Ferry

Secretary

Peter K. Townsend Jr.

Treasurer

William D. Jakovac

Directors

Joseph A. Dunn

William D. Lightner

Chris Fidler

Tom Strang

Advocacy Director

Peter K. Townsend Jr.

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

Joseph A. Dunn

Sports Director

Dane R. Smith

Volunteer Coordinator

Agnes Strang

National Director

William D. Jakovac

National Service Officers

See page 8

Executive Director

Joseph W. Dornbrock

Membership and Projects

Coordinator

Sely Thanasack

Bookkeeper

Nancy F. Campbell

Administrative Assistant

Pattie Lujetic

Annual independent audit
conducted by

Kimberly Y. Donovan, CPA

We're moving the location of the Annual Awards Banquet

The Keystone PVA Annual Awards Banquet will be held at a new location in 2026. The Ramada Inn by Wyndham is located just south of Butler, Pennsylvania, on Pennsylvania Route 8.

The street address is 139 Pittsburgh Road, Butler PA 16002.

The hotel is part of a meeting, lodging and health complex. Tesla Biohealing owns and operates the property, and its eponymous business is more visible from the road than the Ramada. The hotel extends back from the Tesla Biohealing entrance, and has separate entrances for the front desk and the Crystal Ballroom, which is where the banquet will be held on Thursday, 01 October 2026.

Banquet Chairman Sean Ferry, President Mark Rosenstein, and Treasurer Bill Jakovac have all visited the property. They are very pleased with the accommodations, including the lodging, which they hope members will reserve to stay over following the banquet. They cite the extensive adjacent parking and accessible rest rooms as two of the features that impressed them.

The Banquet Committee will recommend that the Board of Directors approve travel and lodging reimbursement to members similar to those offered in October 2025. More details will be reported here in The Parascope.

PLAN AHEAD for these events:

Buckeye Wheelchair Games—23-25 April at the Spire Institute, Geneva, Ohio, 44041

Advocacy/Legislation Seminar—09-11 June in Arlington, Virginia and Washington, D.C.

Bass Tournament (Spring)—Saturday, 13 June at the American Legion Post 940 Marina, West Brownsville, Pa.

Chapter Board of Directors election—Candidate information is due 15 June; ballots to be mailed in early July. Deadline to return ballots to chapter office: 31 July. Ballot count to take place on 07 August; announcement of results at the Membership Meeting on 08 Aug.

Kennywood Park Picnic—Wednesday, 22 July, Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, Pa.

National Veterans Wheelchair Games—9-14 July in Detroit, Michigan

Bass Tournament (Summer)—Sunday, 06 September, American Legion Marina, W. Brownsville

Annual Awards Banquet—Thursday, 01 October, Ramada by Wyndham Butler, Butler Pa.

Veterans Day Parades—Pittsburgh and Erie, Pa.; exact dates to be announced

Membership Meetings—Held Saturdays at 10am except in April and June start will be 12:45pm.

11 April: James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center, 2907 Pleasant Valley Boulevard, Altoona PA 16602. Members in the Altoona area are invited to join in person; all others join by Zoom.

20 June: Mellon Heritage Outreach and Wellness Center, Mercyhurst College (road), just off N. Lake Street/Pa. Route 89, North East, Pa. 16428. Members in northwestern Pa. invited to join in person; all others join by Zoom.

08 August: via Zoom for all members; chapter office open.

10 October: via Zoom for all members; chapter office open.

12 December: via Zoom for all members: chapter office open.

Research Participants Needed



Functional Brain Imaging in Stroke Survivors Study

Join our research study to help us validate a new tool for monitoring language processing in the brain. We are especially seeking **Veterans who have never had a stroke.**

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS:

- Are 18 or older **AND**
- Speak English
- Are medically stable
- Do not have a brain injury, psychiatric illness, drug/alcohol dependence, or past/present speech or language disorder
- Can safely have an MRI

PARTICIPANTS WILL:

- Attend four to six hourlong appointments to --
 - » Complete cognitive and/or language testing
 - » Have up to four non-invasive brain imaging studies (functional MRI and functional near-infrared spectroscopy)
- Receive up to \$180 for completing all study procedures



Appointments will be on VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System's University Drive campus and the CMU-Pitt Brain Imaging Data Generation & Education (BRIDGE) Center.

For more information or to learn more, call 412-360-6495.

Principal investigator: **Jeffrey Johnson, Ph.D., CCC-SLP**

Call 412-360-2394 to validate this research study.

CMU-Pitt BRIDGE Center
Mellon Institute 144

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

www.pittsburgh.va.gov
412-822-2222 | 866-482-7488

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

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 grows, rolls in Erie Hometown Heroes event

Keystone Paralyzed Veterans' bowlers again participated in the Erie VA Medical Center-sponsored "Hometown Heroes" bowling fundraiser at the Eastway Lanes in Erie on 22 February. For years, at least one member of the Keystone Paralyzed Veterans has participated in this event; now most of the chapter's bowling league members get together. This was the 22nd edition of the Tournament, which benefits programs supporting activity of the patients at the Erie VA Medical Center. See the photos on page 7.

The league has grown with the addition of new chapter member Bob Baker of Erie. His scores and the scores of the rest of the league are at the bottom of this page.

You can bowl at any bowling emporium any time of the year. Except for the Hometown Heroes event and the kickoff com-

petition that the league has held the day after the Annual Awards Banquet, the league is virtual. Bowlers bowl at their own nearby alley, then send a copy of the printout of their scores, along with receipts, to the chapter office, along with a request to be reimbursed for up to three games a week. A Life member can also get reimbursed for the games of one attendant who is with them when they bowl.

Routine bowling does not require advance authorization from the chapter for reimbursement, but members do need to attend Membership Meetings—see the rule below, which has been in effect since November 2024.

If you wish to participate in the Keystone PVA bowling league and want to know more, contact Mark Rosensteel, 724-875-1086, or Bill Jakovac, 412-916-9261

Reminder: Recreation support predicated on Membership Meeting attendance

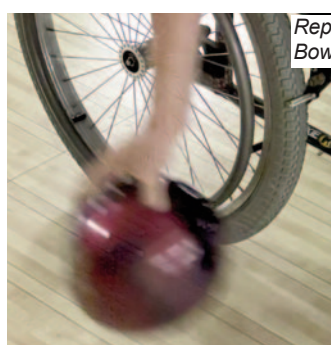
Chapter sponsorship for financial support for members to participate in sporting and recreation events dependent on members attending chapter Membership Meetings:

"Life members who request chapter sponsorship to cover the costs of attending an organized recreational event shall have attended, in person or by audio and/or video device, no fewer than 50 percent of the Keystone Chapter Membership Meetings in the 12 months (365 days) prior to the date of the sponsorship request. Examples of events are the National Veterans

Wheelchair Games, the Buckeye Games, handcycling, bowling, billiards, fishing, handcycling, shooting, and similar clinics and competitions. This qualification is in addition to any other eligibility requirement, such as earning Health and Recreation Points."

The Health and Recreation Points system (see page 8), which was suspended at the onset of the pandemic in 2020, has not been reinstated. This attendance rule is in effect, and applies to all financial recreation support for members, not just the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.

2025-26 season Keystone PVA bowling scores

	Reported as of February 2026. Bowling year: 01 Oct - 30 Sept							
	High Game	High Series	High Average	Strikes	Spares	Games	Average	
	Bob Baker	128	282	94	11	25	17	94
	Sean Ferry	199	530	176	32	107	21	155
	Bill Jackson	180	410	136	21	51	18	118
	Bill Jakovac	164	403	134	17	21	12	107
	Jorden Jones	193	444	148	18	53	12	143
	John Kellner	189	504	168	139	301	78	141
	Mark Rosensteel	211	552	184	95	250	48	160

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.

Late Spring 2026 TEAM BASS TOURNAMENT



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

Sponsored by
the Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America,
the Outcasts Bass Club,
the Tom Landish Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation,
and the Weisbrod Foundation

**Top prize: \$750 for the winning
two-person team
Plus: \$200 for the Big Bass
and prizes for places 2nd through 10th**

Tournament director:

Larry Freeman, 724-678-6860

Keystone PVA Associate Sports Director:

Tom Strang, 724-745-1861

Tournament at American Legion Post 940

800 Middle Street, West Brownsville PA 15417

Saturday, 13 June 2026, 5:30am to 3pm

Schedule: Disabled angler check in: 5:30 to 6 a.m.
Cast off: 7 a.m. Weigh-in: 1 p.m.
Picnic and prizes awarded after weigh-in

**To receive the rules, registration and waiver form,
contact the chapter office, 412-781-2474**



Hunting and fishing events Tom Strang, Associate Sports Director

For more information call Tom Strang, 724-350-7955.

For fishing and hunting in Pennsylvania a valid Pennsylvania hunting or fishing license is required. Keystone PVA will reimburse you for the cost of those licenses when you submit your receipts with the Volunteer Expense Report form by the 7th of each month. Contact the chapter office, 412-781-2474 for a form. One of our chapter goals is to have good hunting and angling events for our members and all persons with disabilities to enhance health, self esteem, confidence and independence.

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing

Disabled veterans can call Amanda Thompson, director for this organization in Western Pennsylvania, at 412-877-7864 to learn how to tie flies, build fly rods, and to go on

fishing outings. Learn more at projecthealingwaters.org.

Patriots Cove is a nonprofit organization that provides outdoor recreational opportunities for disabled veterans and first responders. Current activities on its 18-acre accessible site include fly fishing and hunting retreats. Caregiver events are also planned. All food and lodging is provided at no expense to the participant. See the calendar on page 7. For additional details including registration please go to the Patriots Cove website: patriotscove.org.

Hunting at the WCJ Ranch

Deer and turkey hunts for disabled hunters are available in Crawford County Area 1B, in northwest Pennsylvania, at the WCJ Ranch, 20397 N. Richmond Road, Cambridge Springs PA 16403-6834 Please call Shawn Schmitz in advance for an appointment at 814-724-1930.

2nd annual Keystone Wheelchair Games held

The Human Engineering Research Laboratories (HERL) hosted its second annual “Keystone Wheelchair Games” on 20 February at its facilities in Bakery Square in the Larimer neighborhood of Pittsburgh. Seven members of the Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America participated, including HERL’s director, Rory Cooper.

The competition included bocce, cornhole, slalom, table tennis, and weightlifting. Besides Dr. Cooper, chapter participants were Sean Ferry, Joe Gilkinson, Bill Jakovac, John Kellner, Tom Strang and Austin Walters.

Left to right: Sean Ferry, Joe Gilkinson, and Austin Walters.



Elections for PVA Keystone Chapter directors

Eligibility

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

Responsibility

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

Duties

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

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

Election process

A member who wishes to serve on the Board must submit a candidacy

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

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

The candidacy statement and photo must be finalized and delivered to the chapter office by 15 June 2026, no exceptions. The Board will review the slate of candidates to insure that all are certified members in good standing.

The ballot will be mailed to all voting members by first class mail during the first full week in July. Enclosed with the ballot will be all candidacy statements and a return envelope. For a ballot to be valid:

- It must be marked according to the instructions enclosed.
- It must be returned in the return envelope provided.
- It must be returned to the Keystone PVA office through the United States Postal Service.
- It must be postmarked no later than 31 July 2026.

All ballots will be tabulated at the chapter office on 07 August.

The results of the tabulation will be announced at the August Membership Meeting, and in the September-October 2026 edition of *The Parascope*. All newly elected or re-elected directors must attend the September Board meeting in order to be oriented to service obligations.

Ramp or no ramp—Keystone Paralyzed Vets bowl in Erie



Above, left to right: **John Kellner, Jorden Jones, Bill Jackson, and Bob Baker.**

The team and their groupies, left to right: **Jorden Jones, Michelle Davi, Mark Rosensteel, Dwaine Crytzer, Sean Ferry, Lynnette Ferry, Von Christie, John Kellner, Bill Jackson, Roxanne Baker, and Bob Baker.**



REMINDERS

Four of the chapter's six Membership Meetings during the year have a new start time: 10 a.m.

They include the February, August, October and December meetings. The start times for the April and June meetings will remain at 12:45 p.m. so that President Mark Rosensteel can travel to Altoona and to North East (near Erie) Pa. See the message on page 4 regarding Membership Meeting attendance to be eligible for recreation financial support.

R R R

Keystone PVA WILL reimburse its Life Members (paralyzed veterans) for expenses associated with organized recreation events with prior approval. Because the Board of Directors approves these requests and only meets once a month, requests must be submitted 45 days in advance.

The chapter will reimburse for bowling fees, hunting and fishing licenses, and fitness and sportsmen's club memberships without prior approval but with receipts and the chapter's Volunteer Expense Report.

PATRIOTS COVE	
SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED US	
2026 Calendar of Events	
DATE	EVENT
February 21, 2026	Fly Tying Event at the Cove
March 21, 2026	Fly Tying Event at the Cove
April 17 - 19, 2026	Distinguished Visitors Event at the Cove
April 30 - May 2, 2026	Fly Fishing Event at the Cove
Friday, May 22, 2026	Fish for the Fallen Tournament (Fallen Veterans Fundraiser)
June 14 - 27, 2026	Special Fishing Event (Montana)
July 16 - 19, 2026	Kentucky Work Event
August 13 - 15, 2026	Fly Fishing & Susquehanna River Event
Friday, August 22, 2026	Dinner & Raffle Fundraiser
September 17 - 19, 2026	Fly Fishing & Susquehanna River Event
September 2026 (Date TBD)	Golf Tournament & Fundraiser (Lumberton, NC)
Saturday, October 3, 2026	Fish for the Fallen Tournament (First Responders Fundraiser)
Hunting Events	
DATE	EVENT
October 2 - 10, 2026	Deer Hunt (Kershaw, SC)
November 1 - 7, 2026	Deer & Turkey Hunt (Noxen, PA)
November 8 - 14, 2026	Deer & Turkey Hunt (Noxen, PA)
December 6 - 12, 2026	Deer & Turkey Hunt (Barbourville, KY)
January 10 - 16, 2027	Hog Hunt (Kershaw, SC)
January 2027 (Date TBD)	Dinner & Fundraiser (Lumberton, NC)

Keystone Chapter Health and Recreation Points System

This “Points” system has been suspended until further notice, but members are strongly encouraged to engage in the listed activities.

Please note, in bold face below, the new rule requiring attendance at Membership Meetings for chapter financial support.

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 half of the chapter’s Membership Meetings prior to obtaining chapter sponsorship for participation in a recreational event, such as the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. See story on page 4.**

- ☛ To receive credit for mileage, volunteer time & points, member MUST forward a Volunteer Expense 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!

APRIL

01 Robert Christman
 02 Teresa Crow
 03 Mona Gutshall
 04 Christine Lieberman
 06 Dario Diaz
 07 Sandra Saffel
 Dillard Saleem
 08 Frank Steck
 10 Richard Mazzur
 11 Albert Seidel
 13 Danny Cullen
 16 Kenneth Lott
 17 Lynnette Ferry
 21 Alicia Pastva
 23 Robert Coret
 Joseph A. Dunn
 Ernie DiMeglio
 24 Ronald S. Nemcik Jr.
 Carl Shenk Jr.
 25 David L. Fry
 26 Christopher C. Burtch
 Tara Lightner
 George Neelan
 28 Allen C. Myers
 30 Nick F. Gallick

MAY

01 Dennis Haines
 James McCracken
 04 Frederick Fox
 David Kleinfelter Jr.
 Stanley Solarczyk

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!

05 Philip Fleming
 Ronald J. Pasky
 Floyd Thompson
 06 Scott Bloom
 Jamie Gandert
 07 Bernard Hoffman
 09 Scott Musgrove
 11 Ronald Murhon
 12 Theresa Derr
 John Sargent
 15 Etta Bollinger
 Michele Schnur
 Charles Shaffer
 16 David Cope
 19 Jean Jakovac
 William McConnell

22 Abel Richardson
 Jeremi Sensky
 24 Leroy Lamb
 25 William Hoffman
 26 Anthony L. Barton

JUNE

01 William Sullivan
 02 David Pyle
 04 Joseph Branch
 Jason Fay
 06 Sean Ferry
 07 Troy Williams
 08 Domenico Lazzaro
 09 Charles H. Agne
 Serena (McCloskey) Gregory
 Edmond Proulx
 10 David Kucherer
 11 Clarence Appleby
 Rich Sarocky
 12 Timothy Pollard
 13 David Cooper
 Kevin Williamson
 15 Kimberly Atherton
 Tino Yaccich
 16 Robert Wilt
 24 Michael Carr
 Kenneth W. Deaven
 Berl Duvall
 Michael Michalek
 Thomas Otte
 Andrew Womeldorf
 25 Rebecca McTall
 29 Gina Congie
 Hanna Mowry
 30 Austin Walters

PHOTO CREDITS taken or provided by: Page 1, right—Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center.

Page 7, top four photos—Lynnette Ferry.

Other photos were taken by staff, are file photos, or have been anonymously submitted.

ADVERTISING in THE PARASCOPE

The Parascope is published bi-monthly. Deadline for submission of ad copy for the May-June issue will be 15 April.

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. Four will start at 10 a.m.; two—Altoona and Erie—will start at 12:45 p.m. to accomodate the chapter president’s travel to those locations.

In calendar year 2026, the expected dates (all Saturdays) and locations of the “in-person” part of the meetings will be:

- 14 February—chapter office, Sharpsburg
- 11 April—Chapter office, Sharpsburg (*Location changed*)
- 20 June—Mellon Heritage Veterans’ Center, North East
- 08 August—Chapter office, Sharpsburg
- 10 October—Chapter office, Sharpsburg
- 12 December—Chapter office, Sharpsburg

Details for attending the next Membership Meeting, on Saturday, 11 April in Altoona, are on the back page.

We welcome new Life Members—

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

Steven R. Iman, Butler, Butler County, Marine Corps.

Timothy R. Reider, Steelton, Dauphin County, Navy.

Eric Jon Greenwald, Monroeville, Allegheny Co., Navy.

And we mourn the passing of Life Members

Richard L. Snedden of Nanty-Glo, Cambria County, Pa. on 08 January 2026. He was a Marine Corps veteran and a member for 30 years.

Robert L. Strunk of Boyertown, Berks County, Pa. on 07 February 2026. He was an Army veteran who joined Keystone PVA in 2025.

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.

Timothy J. Anick, Roger W. Baker, Anthony L. Barton, James D. Evans, Jerald R. Johnson, Joseph M. Kostich, Raymond K. Lookart, Curtis H. Pascal, William E. Shingler, and Joseph D. Zimmet

MEMBERSHIP TOTALS AS OF 19 MARCH 2026

Service connected	167
Non-service connected	<u>92</u>
TOTAL	259
Annual Associate Members	16
Lifetime Associate Members	<u>70</u>
TOTAL	86

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

Justin Platt and Christopher Custer, National Service Officers; **Marissa Sabatucci**, Administrative Assistant

Eastern Pennsylvania: Philadelphia, 215-381-3057

5000 Wissahickon Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19144

Joseph Weeks, Area Manager; **Violet Graham**, Senior Administrative Assistant

Western New York: Buffalo, 716-857-3353

130 S. Elmwood Avenue, Suite 621, Buffalo NY 14202

Matthew Wezka, National Service Officer II; **Victoria Gawne**, Administrative Assistant II

Central New York State: Syracuse, 315-425-4400, ext. 53317

800 Irving Avenue, Room C419, Syracuse NY 13210

Charles Tocci, Senior Benefits Advocate

Big red boxes and small green boxes support Keystone Paralyzed Veterans



This donation box is at G & G Fitness, 17020 Perry Highway (U.S. Route 19) in Warrendale, Allegheny County, Pa., just over a mile from the new site of the chapter's annual Air Rifle Clinic and Competition, the North Side Sportsmen's Association. Thanks to G & G Fitness!

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.

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!**

If you have donated, *thank you!*

Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America is most grateful for voluntary donations from the generous public.

Army-green boxes made from ammunition cans have been placed at supportive businesses in southwestern Pennsylvania, and generous customers have responded! The boxes are numbered, security tagged and sealed, then placed on the businesses' counters to accept bills and coins. Personnel from Keystone PVA periodically exchange the boxes.

Any business that wishes to host a box or any member who wishes to assist in placing and retrieving the boxes can contact the chapter for more information, 412-781-2474.





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
Sean Ferry, Rex Nichols—
Deputy Representatives

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, 11 APRIL 2026

MEETING TIME: 10 a.m.

Primary site: **Keystone PVA office**, 1113
Main Street, Sharpsburg (Pittsburgh PA 15215)

Join by Zoom videoconference.

Members who reside outside southwestern
Pennsylvania 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 03 April 2026

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 Parascopes, even by officers and directors, do not necessarily reflect the views of the Keystone Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America. Keystone PVA neither endorses nor guarantees any of the products or services described or mentioned in The Parascopes.