



Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America

Member chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America, chartered by the Congress of the United States

01 October 2010 — 30 September 2011

We're on a roll!

Annual Report 2011

Paralyzed veterans work for all veterans



ADVOCACY (top left): (left to right) **Chris Fidler**, **Bill Jakovac**, and **Jim Riemer** took a brief break after visiting all offices of Pennsylvania's members of Congress in March 2011.

SPORTS AND RECREATION (top right): (left to right) **Bill Wheaton**, his high school coach **Leroy Dillard**, and Bill's mother **Shirley** celebrated Bill's silver medal performance in weightlifting at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Pittsburgh in August 2011.

RESEARCH (bottom left): (left to right) **Jim Riemer** presents financial support for spinal cord and adaptive technology research to PVA President **Bill Lawson** at the annual PVA Convention in August 2011.

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT (bottom right): **Bill Jakovac** drove the Keystone PVA van in the November 2010 Veterans' Day Parade in Pittsburgh, promoting the 2011 National Veterans Wheelchair Games.

Reports of the Officers



President's Report Fred Tregaskes

At Keystone PVA we started our new year, as always, with our Awards Banquet at which time we recognized certain members and some of the distinctive personnel from the VA or other facets which supported or assisted our membership and/or our mission. The support of all who assist us are the people, including our volunteers, who help form the backbone of our organization and keep it running.

It seems imperative to me that we should have a National Officer at an event such as this, but I realize the fact of conflicting events. But we are most fortunate in Keystone for we always have our NSO Dave Parkinson present at nearly all meetings and functions. Dave represents National very well and is a superb Master of Ceremonies.

Keystone always has the December membership meeting at Heinz Progressive Care Center of the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, which is well attended, followed by Christmas Caroling on the wards and we pass out canteen books.

Of course our scattered members also attend Membership Meetings at the Butler, Erie, and Lebanon VA Medical Centers during the year, and in 2012, we'll again hold meetings at the Altoona VAMC.

There are numerous parades and ceremonies in November attended by Keystone throughout the state which include parades, speaking engagements, displays and ceremonies. Keystone PVA banners and magnetic car/van signs are quite visible at functions and traveling to and from them.

The exposure we obtain is visible throughout the state but most prevalent on the western and middle two thirds of the state, however I still have hopes of getting another VA Hospital site on board at Wilkes Barre. It may be a little rough at first but I feel Keystone can and will make it work, we will make the attempt.

We have good representation on our assigned VA facilities. Each one is visited two to five times a week (or more in many cases). We support everything from bingo to canteen books to playing cards to potato chips where allowed. Each VA Hospital is sent \$50 (or more) per month for all patriotic or veteran oriented holidays.

The biggest project this fiscal year (actually two years) was the National Veterans Wheelchair Games held the first week of August. The Games went well, best games ever!! Right? Well it depends on whether you were looking IN from the outside or looking OUT from the inside. Yes the games went off well even though there was misunderstanding, miscommunication, or you just did not know.

A chapter, as co-host, needs to know what to do, what is needed, such as co-operation, communication, and accepted input. Of course all went well if you were sitting in a chair ten feet above the beach because you didn't have your feet on the sand. The chapter should not be a cash cow, waiting for someone to grab her udder when the pail is empty. Do not have someone who lacks authority tell me what or what not my chapter can give out, it will not work.

And yes, the Coast Guard is a Branch of Service in the armed forces of the USA.

A long week, many good people, many great memories! A great job by Keystone committee representatives and Joe Dornbrock for serving as our point of contact.

This past year went well in spite of all the problems and infirmities; the officers and Board of Directors continue to carry on the mission. Our Executive Director stays on the go and the office staff is superb.

However, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the Officers, Board Members, and Executive Director for the fact that they all, every one, serve in three to six or more fraternal, civic, and veterans groups or organizations, from local to county to state level, and are either officers or board or committee members. We have members sitting on city councils and advisory boards and all are doing an excellent job.

And this is what Keystone does and is all about; performing the mission, and veterans helping veterans. They do it well.

Yours in service—Fred Tregaskes

Vice President's Report Jim Riemer



Vice President's duties

Duties of the vice president include chairing the Annual Awards Banquet Committee. The Banquet for the year ending September 30, 2011 was held on October 6, 2011 at the Hampton Banquet Hall in Gibsonia, Pa. Twenty-two life members and 16 associate members, their spouses and/or attendants, 12 members of the Albert Gallatin JROTC, and chapter volunteers were among the 100 persons attending.

I coordinated the chapter annual picnic held annually at Kennywood Amusement Park, in West Mifflin. Approximately 100 life members and associate members, their spouses and/or attendants, children and grandchildren, and chapter volunteers were invited and attended Kennywood for unlimited rides and a buffet meal at no charge.

Coordinating the National Veterans Wheelchair Games this year was different. With Keystone PVA serving as the host chapter, the planning by the executive director, president, chapter sports director and I took more than a year. There were site visits, fundraisers, and committee meetings to promote the Games. The chapter had 23 members attend the Games at quite an expense. Everybody made a good showing winning

many medals.

Fundraising

The American Thrift Center (ATC) is a limited liability company that solicits contributions of secondhand clothing and household items for resale of which Keystone PVA receives a commission on gross sales. ATC also provides replacement household items and clothing within its inventory for Keystone PVA members who have suffered a catastrophic loss. American Thrift Center provides a 50% discount to Keystone PVA members.

Federal employees can now make donations to the chapter through the 3 Rivers/Pennsylvania West Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).

Research

Keystone PVA donates money annually to the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System and University of Pittsburgh Human Engineering Research Laboratory (HERL) that works with wheelchairs and assistive technology. Keystone PVA members assist in various research programs. We also make annual donations to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, ALS and the Lupus Foundation.



Treasurer's Report Bill Jakovac

There were several firsts for me this past year: I competed in my first bowling tournament and the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. I traveled to Washington, D.C. to talk with the staffs of our representatives in Congress and Senate. There were many interviews and media training in support of the wheelchair games. I got involved in representing our chapter and it has been fun.

I represent the chapter on the Sharing and Caring Committee, which helps hospitalized veterans. A year long process ends with the four days following Labor Day. During this week, over 600 veterans from our VA hospitals, nursing homes, and veterans centers are treated to trips onboard the Gateway Clipper's Majestic. Getting out of the hospital environment for a few hours, the veterans enjoy a buffet dinner, entertainment, and sightseeing on Pittsburgh's three rivers.

In support of the PVA's essay contest, I went to our local school to present awards to our two finalists. During the Aspinwall American Legion's Memorial Day Observance, I also presented those students to our community and they were well received.

I made a lot of needlepoints this year. I was honored

to have several displayed at the wheelchair games. I presented special ones to the veteran athletes from the United Kingdom and our national Vice President Laura Ellington. I also donated four to the support of raffles for the Games and our annual banquet.

This is our first year as a charitable organization with the Combined Federal Campaign. I have attended their training sessions and have represented the Chapter at various charity fairs. As an approved speaker, any federal agency can invite me to speak to their group and talk on our behalf.

Keystone PVA's work for paralyzed veterans is supported by national PVA grants; commissions from American Thrift Center L.L.C. (ATC) in West Mifflin, PA; and contributions from individuals and local organizations. **In FY 2011 we received no funding from local, state, or federal governments.**

This year Keystone PVA's books were inspected by Pittsburgh-based Sisterson & Co., LLP. The auditor's opinion letter is on page 13, followed by statements of activities and financial position. Like all chapter financial records, the complete audit is available in the chapter office.

The Keystone PVA Board of Directors, 2011



The **2011 Board of Directors** at a monthly meeting: clockwise from the lower left are **Rob Morris**, National Service Officer **Dave Parkinson**, **Ben Williams**, **George "Murph" Neelan**, **Jim Riemer**, Volunteer Coordinator **Agnes Strang**, **Bill Jakovac**, **Tom Strang**, **Jerry "Bull" Baylor**, and **Fred Tregaskes**. Not present at the meeting often joining by conference phone are Chris Fidler and Gary Orlando. Mr. Parkinson and Mrs. Strang are not Board members but are always invited to attend.

Contact information for the 2012 Board of Directors

To provide for easy communication with members of the Board, the current (FY 2012) officers and directors are providing their mailing addresses and home telephone numbers. They ask that people respect the opportunity.

Frederick J. Tregaskes, President
507 State Route 1034
Templeton PA 16259
724-548-5685

Chris Fidler
71 Moonshine Road
Jonestown PA 17038-8136
717-865-0009

James E. Riemer, Vice President
437 Freeport Road
Butler PA 16002-3714
724-287-6192

Doris A. Ganzy, RN, BSN

Robert R. Morris, Secretary
748 Grindstone Road
Grindstone PA 15442-9739
724-677-0301

George Neelan
415 Rachael Court
Gibsonia PA 15044-4912
724-443-0229

William D. Jakovac, Treasurer
103 Glen Inverness Drive, Apt. D
Glenshaw PA 15116-2792
412-487-2422

Gary M. Orlando, Sr.
4365 Miller Avenue
Erie PA 16509-1311
814-864-8912

Jerry Baylor
1066 State Route 356
Leechburg PA 15656-2028
412-855-7139

Tom Strang
18 Angerer Road
Canonsburg PA 15317-5806
724-745-1861

Members who have passed on to the Eternity Chapter

FY 2011 —01 October 2010 to 30 September 2011
All towns in Pennsylvania except where noted

Allen L. Reagan Jr., Markleysburg, 26 November
Bernard E. Marhefka, Vestal, N.Y., 30 December
Frederick G. Bowman, Chalfont, 04 January
Joseph Fisher, Boothwyn, 01 February
Thomas McDowell, Meadville, 06 March
Donald F. Shanta, Lower Burrell, 22 May
Ronald Pisano, Uniontown, 12 July
Charles F. Walskey, Connellsville, 14 August
Noel M. Mohn, Ambridge, 17 August
Norman D. Hunter, Altoona, 21 September

And we learned of these members' deaths in FY11:

Hugh Romestan, Bulger, 28 Oct 08
Edmond P. Kotary, Boalsburg, 28 Jan 09
Walter (Doug) Campbell, Monessen, 07 Mar 09
Norman P. Schoen, Library, 20 Jan 10
John B. Marsh, Pittsburgh, 15 Apr 10
Frank Cippartino, Pendell, 25 Apr 10
Eugene Good, Windber, 12 Jun 10
Ray A. Funk, Terra Alta, W. Va., 16 Aug 10
Robert G. Slayton, Brooklyn, N.Y., 28 Aug 10
Ed Gay, Pittsburgh, 10 Sep 10
Thomas Emershaw, Wyoming (Pa.), 13 Sep 10

PROGRAM REPORTS



Sports & Recreation

Jerry "Bull" Baylor
Sports & Recreation Director

The Keystone PVA Sports and Recreation Programs are overseen by a three-man committee: Jim Riemer, Vice President; Tom Strang, Associate Sports Director, and me. This system seems to work quite well.

The mission of the Keystone PVA Sports and Recreation Program is to improve the quality of life of paralyzed veterans and other persons with disabilities. This is achieved by assisting with expansion of both the quality and quantity of opportunities in sports and recreation, especially with those activities which enhance lifetime health and fitness.

We have a program for members to use our sports and recreation travel fund to attend events, including the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, the Winter Ski Clinic in Colorado, national bass fishing tournaments, trapshooting events, billiards, and national bowling tournaments. Members wishing to participate in these and other events must submit a sponsorship request 30 days prior to the event and must have accumulated 12 points from August 1 to February 28. The funding policy and a list of chapter programs are published in each newsletter and are available by contacting the office. The Keystone PVA Board of Directors establishes funding limits for the chapter sports and recreation travel fund annually based on the availability of funds.

Our chapter is getting more and more involved in sports with new members coming on board. We have members involved in track, field, weightlifting, swimming, shooting, hunting, fishing, road racing, bowling, billiards, quad rugby, scuba diving, and wheelchair basketball. We cover a broad spectrum of sports.

Our chapter has many organized sports and recreation opportunities available. There is a bowling league, bass tournament, hunting, fishing, Fish & Cruise on the Mon, pheasant hunts, and the Kennywood Picnic. We have opened up more opportunities by working closer with the disabled groups in our area, such as, the Hope Network, shooting clinics, curling, and scuba, to name a few. Other opportunities are available from National PVA including Bass Tour, Bowling Tour, Billiard Tour, Trap Shooting, and Cycle Race Tour.

Accomplishments

Hosting the **National Veterans Wheelchair Games** here in Pittsburgh was our big event this year. A lot of work and effort was put into hosting them and we have received a lot of positive feedback. On a personal note I have been involved in wheelchair sports for 31 years. This week of sports were my best ever from carrying the torch at the opening ceremony to the winning of 'Spirit of Games' award at the end. What a great week!

Quad Rugby ... the chapter supported Pittsburgh Steelwheelers. The team has two of our members Joe Gilkinson and Jerry Baylor, competing. Our chapter gave a donation to a 5K race they hold every year and to a Quad Rugby Tournament held at Slippery Rock University. By doing this we have increased our awareness, we also have secured associate members and speaking engagements.

Hunts at WCJ Ranch... Located in Crawford County, WCJ Ranch offers deer, turkey, and pheasant hunts for disabled hunters at no charge. Several of our members take advantage and report hunting both productive and enjoyable.

South Fayette Deer Hunt... takes place each October in South Fayette Township. This event is open to handicapped hunters using shot guns and muzzleloaders only; a few of our members take advantage.

Wounded Warriors of Western Pennsylvania... located in Washington County, sponsors hunts and shoots for disabled hunters. Game includes deer, turkey, pheasant, and coyote. Quite a few of our Keystone PVA members participate in these hunts and shoots. Wounded Warriors also host Fish and Cruise on the Monongahela, another opportunity for our members to enjoy our outdoors.

Bowling ... Several members of Keystone PVA participate in bowling. Our chapter reimburses members up to three games per week; we report scores in our newsletter.

KPVA and Greene County Bass Tournament ... takes place each year on the Monongahela River. Members compete in day-long competition that includes a picnic.

Veterans Art Festival ... usually held at the VA Hospital was canceled this year because of the conflict with the games. They return in May; several of our members enter every year and have won awards.

Kennywood Picnic ... is a one-day event open to mem-

(Continued on page 9)

Program reports, continued

Communications

Overseen by the Board of Directors

The Parascope

The chapter's newsletter, The Parascope, remains the chapter's main tool for communicating large quantities of information to our members, associate members, and volunteers. We also send it to all PVA chapters and the national PVA, as well as allied organizations and businesses. The Parascope provides regular reports on advocacy, legislation, sports and recreation, membership, chapter events, veterans' benefits, other issues and other items in which the readers may have an interest.

Producing The Parascope is a time-consuming part of the work of the chapter, from the reports written by officers and directors to the staff time spent editing and fitting all information onto pages in increments of four. The process is made easier by contributors who submit their information in electronic form.

It is also expensive to produce. The Board of Directors has determined that the color photography is essential to showing readers what the chapter's members do, so despite the expense, it will remain part of The Parascope.

The quality of photos contributed by members and volun-

teers improves each year. Over a thousand photos are submitted each year, and though only a small number can be used, having a selection to choose from is helpful.

E-mail, keystonepva@comcast.net

The number of members whom we can reach by e-mail grows each year, but we know not all members are providing e-mail addresses or use e-mail frequently. Still, we encourage our members to get and use e-mail service.

Web site, www.kpva.org

The overall appearance of the web site remains that established several years ago by Webmaster Craig Schenker. We have had plans to update it, but that was put off in FY 2011 because of the time consumed by the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.

Teleconferencing

The chapter continued to use teleconference phones to link Membership Meeting sites together for nearly an hour each meeting. We are particularly grateful to the efforts by our members in the Lebanon, Pa. area, who join the other site or sites at least four times a year. The technology we use still makes it difficult to hear, so we are really grateful for their patience and dedication. Teleconferencing has made it possible to double the number of participants at these meetings and cut travel costs.

Service report

Tom Strang, Service Officer

Keystone PVA members monitor the Seating Clinic at the Highland Drive Division and the SCI Clinic at the H. John Heinz III Progressive Care Center of the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System.

Keystone PVA has Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) representatives and deputies at the VA medical centers in Altoona, Butler, Erie, Lebanon, and Pittsburgh. Our members visit other members in the Southwestern Veterans Center in Pittsburgh and the Soldiers and Sailors Home in Erie, both operated by the Commonwealth of Pa., and in private nursing homes.

Volunteer hours for the 12 months ending September 30, 2011 for VA Volunteer Service totaled 4,792. Volunteer non-VAVS hours donated to service to the chapter totaled 5,281.

VAVS representatives as of 30 September

James E. Van Zandt VAMC, Altoona

William D. Lightner, representative

Butler VAMC

Jim Riemer, representative

Dave Patton, deputy

Fred Tregaskes, deputy

Erie VAMC

Gary Orlando, representative

John Larese, deputy

Lebanon VAMC

Chris Fidler, representative

Bruce Shaffer, deputy

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

Highland Drive Division

Tom Strang, deputy

H. John Heinz Progressive Care Center

Tom Strang, representative

Jerry Baylor, deputy

University Drive Medical Center

Robert Morris, deputy

Program reports, continued



Membership

Tom Strang
Membership Officer

Military veterans who have a spinal cord injury or spinal cord disease, and who were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions are welcome to join the Paralyzed Veterans of America free of charge.

Direct benefits of membership include hospital liaison for in-patients and out-patients, representation to the Department of Veterans Affairs (the "VA"), discounted or no-charge recreational activities, and participation in the operation and governance of the organization. Membership programs are listed in detail in every issue of the chapter newsletter, *The Parascope*. All members receive *The Parascope* six times a year, and receive a copy of *PN* magazine from the national PVA each month.

Indirect benefits of membership, which may be more important to a member in the long run, include the work of the PVA and the Keystone PVA in advocacy, legislative affairs, and support for research. The more members the chapter

has, the more influential it can be on members' behalf.

It is important for current members to keep the chapter informed of changes to addresses, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers to keep in touch. And, as always, Keystone PVA's membership lists will not be shared outside the PVA.

Keystone PVA also offers associate memberships to individuals who do not have a spinal cord injury or disease. The dues for associate membership are \$25.00 per year. Lifetime associate membership is available for a one-time fee of \$250.00

Membership as of 30 September 2011

Life members, service connected	141
Life members, non-service connected	<u>144</u>
Total life members:	285
Associate members, annual	29
Associate members, lifetime	<u>58</u>
Total associate members:	87
TOTAL CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP:	372

Fundraising report Research support

See the Vice President's report on page 3.



National Service Officer's Report

C. David Parkinson, SBA,
NSO Pittsburgh

The Pittsburgh Service Office remains committed to our members and their families. During the calendar year of 2011, our office filed more than 150 claims for our members and other eligible veterans, resulting in benefits of nearly \$1.6 million dollars. We have also intervened in situations at VA hospitals which may have adversely affected our veterans.

Feel free to contact us at your convenience: 412 395-6255.

PVA Service Office Room 1602
1000 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222



Secretary's Report

Robert R. Morris

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games have come and gone and I think we helped the Department of Veterans Affairs set a new standard for the Games and hopefully we've encouraged some changes for the future. Based on the favorable response to the trap-shooting event at the Games, the chapter is looking into bringing a National PVA trap-shooting event to the area, perhaps as early as 2013.

The PVA Essay and Poster Contest is still producing finalists from Pennsylvania and new schools are participating.

New hunting and fishing opportunities have presented themselves with the Fairbanks Rod and Gun Club. With any luck 2012 will be as productive a year on all fronts.

Program reports, continued



Volunteers

Agnes Strang
Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteer hours for the 12 months ending September 30, 2011 for VA Volunteer Service totaled 4,792. Volunteer non-VAVS hours donated to service to the chapter totaled 5,281.

As a team, the volunteers and the Board of Directors have met all requirements mandated by National PVA for each program. We continually work to learn more about volunteer service, the specific services we can provide, and all

Advocacy and Liaison Overseen by the Board of Directors

The PVA conducts an Advocacy/Legislative Seminar in March of each year in Arlington, Virginia. In 2011, Keystone PVA sent two people for the intensive, three-day program, then two more members of the chapter went to Washington to join them in visiting the offices members of Congress from Pennsylvania. They made it a point to thank Congress for again fully funding the Veterans Health Administration, and for supporting the two-year rolling budget that makes VA planning more reliable. We also encouraged Congress to be diligent in its oversight of so much taxpayers' money being spent by one federal agency.

Much additional advocacy work during fiscal 2011 involved more participation by the chapter in events and meetings held by other organizations, including exhibits open to the public. More members than ever set up and staffed tables at veterans' services fairs, showing photos of what Keystone PVA does and giving out promotional items (chip clips, key ring flashlights, note pad-and-pen sets).

reporting and compliance issues to keep the Keystone chapter a viable and valuable organization.

A lot of our volunteers have served with Keystone PVA many years. We continue to serve because of our commitment to our veterans. Volunteers are rewarded by the smiles, tears, and many warm hands we hold at the VA medical centers and nursing homes. This is the compensation that keeps volunteers going when times are difficult.

All regular voting members who volunteer are permitted to use the Keystone PVA Sports and Recreation Program. Volunteer time reports must be received in the chapter office by the seventh of each month in order to report them to the national office in a timely manner.

Volunteers are the hallmark of our organization!

The biggest exhibit was at the Expo during the 2011 National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Pittsburgh, at which hundreds of the SkinFinity skin care kits, donated by Nina Cook and Distinctive Design, LLC, were handed out to eager Games participants. Thanks to Agnes Strang and her granddaughters for staffing the booth during that long day.

Much chapter advocacy, especially in breaking down accessibility barriers, is done quietly so as not to embarrass those who may not have been aware of the barriers or of the law. The Americans with Disabilities Act was passed 21 years ago, but institutions, private enterprises, and even government agencies often have to be reminded that the ADA is the law of the land. We do so gently, if firmly, in order to encourage those who are either modifying existing structures or building new ones that the specifications of the ADA are absolute minimums, and that substantially exceeding those minimums helps many people, not just paralyzed veterans, get around and about.



The Keystone PVA booth at the Expo during the 2011 National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Pittsburgh was staffed by three of the granddaughters of Tom and Agnes Strang (**Clarissa Congie, Sarah Congie, and Rebecca Strang**, in the photo behind the table), as well as Agnes and Keystone PVA Office Manager Diane Byrnes. The SkinFinity skin care kit was very popular; nearly 900 were given away that day.

Program reports, continued

Sports & Recreation report

Continued from page 5

bers and their families each summer; the chapter sponsors admission and dinner for our group. The event enables our membership to enjoy the sights and sounds of an amusement park and share camaraderie with others.

Pheasant Hunt ... We host a Pheasant Hunt at Four Seasons Game Bird Farm in Valencia, Pa. A lot of our members go out and enjoy a day of hunting.

National summer and winter sports clinics ... that National puts on are attended by some of our members.

Any members who are interested in getting involved can contact me, the Sports Director, through the office, at any time; I will do my best to help you.



No award at the 2011 National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Pittsburgh was more deserved than the "Spirit of the Games" made to **Jerry "Bull" Baylor**, both for his five-gold-medal performance and his role representing Keystone PVA in planning the Games.

Site Leader and VA Voluntary Service reports

Gary M. Orlando, Sr.

Director; Erie VAVS Representative and Site Leader



I am sure that Keystone PVA helped set the bar higher as the Host Chapter of the 2011 National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Many thanks to the VA Pittsburgh Health Care System, a great cooperative effort and team work helped make the "Games" the great success it was.

There were a few new things at the Erie VA Medical Center that vastly improved the excellent care, both medically and aesthetically. The new front entrance and lobby opened, along with the newly built Red Team Primary Care Clinic. A new roof was installed, and many smaller, but important projects have been completed. The next phase of construction will be a big project. They will include such things as a parking garage and a new domiciliary, which are just a few of many additions to begin, hopefully by spring. There are new doctors being hired for the hospital and many of the CBOCs we service. Construction will be done on the Operating Room. I don't have any specifics, but it will cut down on farming certain services out. Of course, there are still ongoing projects to improve the staffing at the Erie VA.

I required a 3-to-4 month hiatus from all of my duties due to a medical problem. I did make sure all my Erie VA duties were covered, which was certainly appreciated by my Deputy VAVS Rep. There was no interruption of care for the members and patients in Northwestern Pa.

I did attend all of the Erie Veterans Advisory Council and VAVS meetings, which were both quarterly. I only missed one meeting of the bi-

monthly Erie VA SCI Team meetings. Any and all concerns, complaints, and congratulations have been addressed and resolved. Many thanks to the Keystone PVA for its ongoing monetary support for the WCJ Ranch in Crawford County and also for the sponsorship of the Annual Erie VA Bowling Tournament and Silent Auctions. The money was much appreciated and used to help paralyzed and all veterans in Pa. I also had the pleasure of attending the Annual VISN4 VAVS Conference and Training Seminar, which was held in Erie and was supported by the Keystone PVA with a donation.

The Keystone PVA volunteers managed to put in over 1500 hours of time to help the patients here at the Erie VA. We lost our two youth volunteers this past summer. They both learned how to drive and both had to get a paying job to be able to drive. They both still support our veterans and are spreading the word of volunteering at high school. I will try to recruit a youth volunteer or two this spring. We just had a new volunteer start in Erie and have one more volunteer that says he is in the process of signing up. I will be making contact with this member to see if he needs any assistance.

I also had the privilege to attend the Annual HLO Training Classes last month. Both Chris Fidler and I learned many things that should be done concerning veterans at our respective VA Medical Centers, since we both are site leaders, I cover the Northwest part of Pa., and Chris covers mainly the central portion of Pa. Hopefully, next year the other two site leaders will be able to attend. I am submitting a report on the HLO (Hospital Liaison Officer) Training; it will be at the office and anyone will be welcome to check it out, if they so desire.

Though it was a great year overall, we lost some great people this past year and they will be sorely missed. God bless them and hold them in your caring arms!

Site Leader and VA Voluntary Service reports *(continued from page 9)*



Chris Fidler

Director; Lebanon VAVS Representative and Site Leader

October 2010 – I worked in the Veterans Activity Center 5 times during the month. I scheduled, helped set up, and manned a Keystone PVA information booth with three other members at the Carlisle Barracks ‘Retiree Appreciation Days’. I accepted an invitation to speak with a group of disabled students at a Highmark YES event in Camp Hill, PA. I scheduled and attended a KPVA sponsored meeting of the Lebanon Veterans Advisory Council at the Lebanon VA.

November 2010 – I worked in the Veterans Activity Center 4 times during the month. I helped with a KPVA sponsored bingo game at the Lebanon VA. I distributed the ‘Parascope’ newsletter and ‘PN Magazine’ throughout the VA waiting rooms. I attended a Veterans Day ceremony at Fisher Park in Lebanon. I attended the annual banquet for the Lebanon Veterans Advisory Council. I teleconferenced in on the KPVA monthly BOD meeting.

December 2010 - I worked in the Veterans Activity Center, and throughout the VA, 4 times during the month. I helped with a fundraiser for athletes attending the Golden Age Games. I attended the VA Volunteer Services, where I spoke to the group about the upcoming Wheelchair Games. I scheduled, set up, and attended the member meeting & teleconference at the Lebanon VA. I attended the annual KPVA Christmas Lunch at the Lebanon County CTC. I attended a meeting of the Lebanon V.A.C. at Post # 158 in Lebanon. I attended a 4 day PVA training seminar for Executive Directors & Presidents in Dallas, TX.

January 2011 – I worked in the Veterans Activity Center 5 times during the month. I met with Volunteer Services Director, the VAVS staff and Recreational Therapy about various upcoming activities, and scheduling of KPVA sponsored events. I distributed Parascope and PN Magazine throughout the VA waiting rooms. I assisted with a KPVA sponsored bingo game at the Lebanon VA. I teleconferenced in on the KPVA monthly BOD meeting.

February 2011 - I worked in the Veterans Activity Center 4 times during the month. I represented KPVA at the PA State Veterans Commission at Ft. Indiantown Gap, PA. I helped with a fundraiser for athletes attending the Golden Age Games. I attended a meeting of the Lebanon V.A.C. in Lebanon. I set up and attended the KPVA member meeting & teleconference at the Lebanon VA. I teleconferenced in on the monthly KPVA BOD meeting. I distributed the Parascope newsletter and PN Magazine throughout the VA waiting rooms.

March 2011 – I worked in the Veterans Activity Center 4 times during the month. I attended the “Breakfast of Champions” fundraising event in Pittsburgh. I attended a meeting of the VA Volunteer Services NSO representatives. I attended a meeting of the Lebanon V.A.C. in Lebanon. I helped with a fundraiser for Golden Age Games athletes. I distributed the Parascope and PN Magazine throughout the VA. I teleconferenced in on the monthly BOD meeting. I attended a 4 day PVA Advocacy/Legislation Training Seminar

in Arlington, VA, which included meeting with Congressmen and/or their aides. I attended a KPVA sponsored NRA Regional Air Rifle competition at the Highland Drive VA in Pittsburgh, PA.

April 2011 – I worked in the Veterans Activity Center 5 times during the month. I attended the PA State Veterans Commission in Harrisburg, PA. I set up and attended the KPVA member meeting & teleconference at the Lebanon VA. I scheduled, set up, and attended a KPVA sponsored meeting of the Lebanon V.A.C. at the Lebanon VA. I distributed the Parascope newsletter and Sports & Spokes magazine throughout the VA. I attended a Memorial Day parade planning meeting with the Lebanon V.A.C. at Post # 23 in Lebanon. I teleconferenced in on the KPVA monthly BOD.

May 2011 – I worked in the Veterans Advisory Center 8 times during the month, and also met with several staff members regarding the two upcoming Memorial Day parades. I attended four meetings of the Lebanon V.A.C. to work on the upcoming Memorial Day parades. I set up and manned a KPVA information booth two days at an open house event at Heveco, Inc. in Harrisburg. I participated in two separate Memorial Day parades, one in Lebanon, and one in Annville, PA.

June 2011 – I worked in the Veterans Activity Center 5 times during the month. I helped with an Arts & Crafts show, help distribute produce for a RT project, and distributed the Parascope and PN during the month. I attended a meeting of the VA Volunteer Services NSO representatives. I attended a meeting of the Lebanon V.A.C. in Lebanon. I teleconferenced in on the KPVA monthly BOD meeting. I travelled to Pittsburgh to take part in the filming of the Wheelchair Games Opening Ceremonies video.

July 2011 – I worked in the Veterans Activity Center 6 times during the month. I teleconferenced in on the KPVA monthly BOD meeting. I distributed the Parascope newsletter and PN Magazine throughout the VA waiting rooms. I travelled to Pittsburgh to help with and participate in the 2011 National Veterans Wheelchair Games. I attended the welcome brunch for the British athletes.

August 2011 – I participated in the Wheelchair Games in Pittsburgh. I worked in the Veterans Activity Center 6 times during the month. I teleconferenced in on the KPVA monthly BOD meeting. I scheduled, set up and attended the KPVA member meeting & teleconference at the Lebanon VA. I toured the new CPAC facilities at the Lebanon VA. I helped with a KPVA sponsored bingo game at the Lebanon VA. I traveled to Pittsburgh to attend the “Breakfast with The Steelers” event.

September 2011 – I worked in the Veterans Activity Center 4 times during the month. I and two other KPVA members attended a “meet & greet” photo op with VA Director Callahan, to recognize our efforts at the Wheelchair Games. I helped with a KPVA sponsored bingo game at the Lebanon VA. I attended a meeting of the VA Volunteer Services NSO representatives. I helped with a fundraiser for athletes to attend either the Golden Age Games or the NVWGs. I attended the annual luncheon for the National POW/MIA Recognition Day at the Lebanon VA. I attended a meeting of the Lebanon Veterans Advisory Council in Lebanon. I teleconferenced in on the KPVA monthly BOD meeting. I distributed the Parascope newsletter and PN Magazine throughout the Lebanon VA.

Site Leader and VA Voluntary Service reports *(continued from page 10)*

Bill Lightner James E. Van Zandt (Altoona, Pa.) VAVS Representative and Site Leader



The major construction at the Altoona VA Medical Center is well under way but far from being completed. As of now all of the original 1950s-era windows have been replaced throughout the entire medical center. The fifth floor renovations have been completed, remodeling it into a beautiful home like environment. All Community Living Center (CLC) residents have been relocated to floors 4 and 5 while the sixth floor is undergoing renovations.

A new Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation center is just about complete. It will house the Physical and Occupational Therapy Departments as well as other departments starting in December. The parking lots are under construction to accommodate an additional 50 employee parking spaces.

There were two new Coach Buses purchased this year to transport patients to and from Pittsburgh. They both have incredible paint jobs and look very nice.

The Center passed a Joint Commission survey and was recognized as a top performer this year.

The center also expanded its "My Health-E Vet Program." Now all

care providers are trained to use secure messaging with all patients. I am happy to say that I have accomplished my goals that I set for myself this year including:

- Increased the number of Parascopes and PN Magazines distributed to different locations and departments throughout the center.
- As a Keystone PVA representative I have been fortunate enough to increase my number of visits to have a positive presence of our fine organization at the Altoona VAMC.
- Another way I have increased the organizations visibility is by becoming a member of the Veterans Advisory Council and the Veterans Satisfaction Committee.

Some of my goals for the 2012 are:

- Educate and Increase the number of members and volunteers to the Keystone PVA to show a 5% increase.
- Increase number of members to participate in our sports and recreational events by becoming more involved with the SCI clinic.
- Host one or possible two Membership Meetings at the Altoona VAMC.

I am proud to have completed my first year as the Altoona VA Volunteer Services Representative. I thank everyone for the support that was given to me during my first year.

Administration and staff report

Joseph W. Dornbrock, Executive Director
Diane V. Byrnes, Office Manager
Jeanne M. Keenan, Administrative Assistant

Office management and administration during fiscal year 2011 was anything but routine as the demands of the 2011 National Veterans Wheelchair Games competed with efforts to refine and improve existing programs and attempts at expanding a community presence, fundraising, and pursuing new methods of meeting the chapter's obligations and mission. It remains to be seen if being the "host chapter" was

of any significant value.

Several building and office maintenance issues that developed during the fiscal year could not be adequately addressed due to the demands of the Games. A long list of tasks carried over in FY2012.

Office Manager Diane Byrnes began her fifth year on staff in 2011. Administrative Assistant Jeanne Keenan, who still makes the longest commute to work, has been with the chapter since 2002. Executive Director Joe Dornbrock was with the chapter for six and a half years at the end of FY2011.

National Service Officer contact information

NSO Pittsburgh: C. David Parkinson, SBA
Secretary: Darlene Mead
1000 Liberty Avenue, Room 1602
Pittsburgh PA 15222
800-795-3629 or 412-395-6255

Members in the eastern part of Pa. should contact Ms. Langrehr for benefits assistance; western Pa. members should contact Mr. Parkinson.

NSO Philadelphia: Lisa Langrehr, NSO II
Secretary: Violet Graham
5000 Wissahickon Avenue
Philadelphia PA 19144
800-795-3628 or 215-381-3057

For other locations near Pennsylvania:

Western New York
Michael Kruse, Buffalo, 800-795-3619

Eastern New York
Brenda Vasquez-Alvarez, New York City,
866-297-1319

New Jersey
Thomas Ricks, Newark, 800-795-3617

Keystone PVA thanks you for your generosity

These folks made **direct donations** to the Keystone PVA in our fiscal year 2011 (01 October 2010 to 30 September 2011). We thank you for your generosity in contributing to the many works that support paralyzed veterans. We publish only names and communities of residence. Monetary donations are always acceptable and are preferred due to their flexibility in providing services. Because of space limitations and appropriateness to the mission of the Keystone PVA, not all nonmonetary donations can be accepted.

UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS

Alan M. Christman, Grove City
Robert Coret, Pittsburgh
Betty Coyle, Pittsburgh
Marguerite D. Dougherty, Pittsburgh
Ted & Jim Eazor's Auto Salon, Pittsburgh
Eugene W. Fedak, Allquippa
Janet Hubler, Erie
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers,
D.R. Salvo, Pittsburgh
Andrea Jordan, Gibsonia
Stephanie Jorgenson, Pittsburgh
David Kennedy, Detroit, Michigan
John & Karen Kennedy, Pittsburgh
Richard Lagrotte, North Wales (Pa.)
Kim Logan, Naperville, Illinois
Mobility Works, Wall
Edward Nock, Pittsburgh
Norwin Intermediate Womens Club, Peggy Reyester,
North Huntingdon
Calcomp Nutrition, Inc., Irwin
John E. Ogden, Burke, Virginia
Patricia O'Hara, Warminster
Rev. T.R. William Stuart O'Neill, Moon Township
Delima Pavel
Dorothy Persun, Cogan Station
St. Raphael School, Ms. Renee Lang, Pittsburgh
Joanna Shaw, Concord, Massachusetts
Eleanor & David Taylor, Belle Vernon
Richard & Debbie Lawson, Finleyville (via The Pittsburgh
Foundation's Day of Giving)
The Pittsburgh Foundation, Pittsburgh
Thermoflo, M. T. Laelln, Pittsburgh
Debra Thomas, New Kensington
James Trainor, Pittsburgh
William Zally, Jr., Port Matilda

DONATIONS for

EASTER BAGS FOR HOSPITALIZED VETERANS

Frank Amaditz, Pittsburgh
American Legion Post 77, Aspinwall
American Legion Charles Sutton Post 128, Bollivar
American Legion Bakewell Phelps Post 940, Brownsville
American Legion Post 659, Belle Vernon Legion Club
American Legion Daniel Keffer Post 75, Clairton
American Legion Auxillary Unit 380, Dravosburg
American Legion Post 484, Fayette City
American Legion Post 493, Homer City
American Legion Post 600, Oakmont
American Legion Port Vue Post 447, Port Vue

American Legion Post 299, Sharon
American Legion George L. Walter Post 106, Sharpsburg
American Legion Post 106, Sharpsburg
American Legion Auxillary Unit 106, Sharpsburg
American Legion Post 577, Squirrel Hill
American Legion Trafford Post 331, Trafford
American Legion Post 114, Vandergrift
American Legion Post 243, West Sunbury
American Legion Post 828, Worthington
Edith Bernstein, Pittsburgh
Carrick Brentwood Legionaires, Post 725
Ernest Clark, Wales Center, New York
Highland Grove United Methodist Women, McKeesport
IOF Foresters Court Three Rivers, Springdale
Floyd D. Luttner, McMurray
Virginia Mance, Turtle Creek
Presbyterian Church of Pitcairn, Pitcairn
VFW 567, Barclay-Robinson-Phillips, McDonald
VFW 444, District 27 Ladies Auxillary, Derry
VFW 3945 Morningside, Pittsburgh
William Zally, Port Matilda

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

American Legion Post 380, Dravosburg
Timothy Baker, Coraopolis
Brian & Peg Brinza, Moon Township
Bette R. Dayton, Imperial
Frances Donovan, Wynnewood
Lois & Weldon Doran, Pittsburgh
DeLage Landen & GPO 1QA Team, Wayne
Peter Leahy, Drexel
Alvin & Patricia Levin, Jenkintown
Craig McGinnis
Jacqueline Mohn, Ambridge
J. Niemeyer, Imperial
Parkview Senior Citizens, & M. Baratta, Boothwyn
Jean & Barry Soxman, Tarentum
T. Stefanski, Imperial
Carmelita B. Valerio, Wynnewood
Cathy & James Whelan, Effort
Chester & Carol Zalnasky, Coraopolis

DONATIONS of GOODS and SERVICES

Gloria Atherholt, Danielsville
Distinctive Design, LLC, Nina Cook Proprietor,
Belle Mead, New Jersey
Fannie Ross, Pittsburgh
Laura Tomayko, Wexford

(All cities in Pennsylvania unless otherwise noted)

Independent Auditor's Report and Financial Statements

Keystone PVA engaged Sisterson & Company, LLP, CPAs to perform its Fiscal Year 2011 audit. The following opinion letter, Statement of Activities, and Statement of Financial Position are the highlights of the results of the audit.

To see the complete audit, contact Keystone PVA.



Sisterson & Company, LLP

310 Grant Street, Suite 2100
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219-2300
Phone 412-281-2025
Fax 412-338-4597
Web www.sisterson.com

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America, Inc.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America, Inc. as of September 30, 2011, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. The financial statements of Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America, Inc. as of September 30, 2010, were audited by other auditors whose report dated January 6, 2011, expressed an unqualified opinion on those statements.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America, Inc. as of September 30, 2011, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Sisterson & Co., LLP

January 19, 2012

KEYSTONE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

For the Years Ended September 30, 2011 and 2010

	9/30/2011	9/30/2010
Revenues and support:		
National PVA contributions	\$ 205,668	\$ 211,922
Thrift Shop Fundraising	50,017	48,783
Non-cash contributions		40,508
Telemarketing fundraising		20,547
General Contributions	29,387	12,771
Government Grants		6,150
Combined Federal Campaign	2,779	
Newsletter Advertising	1,214	662
Hunting and Fishing Tournaments	510	260
Membership dues	415	455
Income from investments		
Interest and dividends	31,994	28,235
Net loss on investments	(25,397)	51,404
Net assets released from restrictions	-	-
Total revenues, gains and other support	<u>298,412</u>	<u>421,697</u>
Expenses:		
Program services:		
Membership and benefits	149,246	120,645
Public affairs	134,200	72,228
Research	<u>31,820</u>	<u>28,696</u>
Support services:		
General and Administrative	82,001	18,194
Fundraising	<u>9,351</u>	<u>105,384</u>
Total expenses	<u>406,618</u>	<u>345,147</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets	(110,031)	76,550
Net assets at beginning of year	<u>1,585,786</u>	<u>1,509,236</u>
Net assets at end of year	<u>\$ 1,475,755</u>	<u>\$ 1,585,786</u>

KEYSTONE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
For the Years Ended September 30, 2011 and 2010

ASSETS	2011	2010
Current assets:		
Cash and equivalents	\$ 419,041	\$ 505,856
Advertising and fundraising receivables	4,592	3,740
Prepaid expenses	10,509	11,345
Supply inventory	<u>2,268</u>	<u>15,540</u>
Total current assets	436,410	536,481
Investments at fair value	808,121	804,035
Property and equipment, net:	<u>256,057</u>	<u>269,292</u>
Total assets	\$ <u>1,500,588</u>	\$ <u>1,609,808</u>
LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ <u>24,833</u>	\$ <u>24,022</u>
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	1,475,755	1,583,961
Temporarily restricted	<u>-</u>	<u>1,825</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,475,755</u>	<u>1,585,786</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ <u>1,500,888</u>	\$ <u>1,609,808</u>

KEYSTONE

Paralyzed Veterans of America

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Pittsburgh, PA 15215-2407
Phone 412-781-2474
Toll Free 800-775-9323
Fax 412-781-2659

keystonepva@comcast.net

www.kpva.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Officers, Directors and Appointments, FY 2011

See page 4 for FY2012 information

President

Frederick J. Tregaskes

Vice President

James E. Riemer

Secretary

Robert R. Morris

Treasurer

William D. Jakovac

Directors

Jerry Baylor

Chris Fidler

George M. Neelan

Gary M. Orlando, Sr.

Tom Strang

Ben Williams

Advocacy Director

vacant

Legislative Director

Frederick J. Tregaskes

Hospital Liaison

vacant

Membership Officer

Tom Strang

Service Director

Tom Strang

Sports Director

Jerry Baylor

Volunteer Coordinator

Agnes Strang

National Director

James E. Riemer



CONNECT WITH US

The BOARD OF DIRECTORS: *Contact information on page 4.*

THE OFFICE: *Information is in the keystone in the top left.*

SIX MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS A YEAR

Sites, dates and times are in The Parascope and on the web site.

SIX NEWSLETTERS A YEAR

The Parascope is sent to each member, to public officials and key Department of Veterans Affairs officials, and circulated at the many VA medical centers in which we have a presence.



The Games continue!

Holding the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Pittsburgh had one obvious effect: More paralyzed veterans will be participating in the 2012 Games than in recent memory prior to the 2011 Games. And that means a much bigger expense to the already-strained chapter budget. We offer the opportunity to help send (from top left, clockwise) **Dave Patton, Ed Leeper, Joe Kiren and Rob Morris** and their fellow veterans to the Richmond Games in 2012. Contact Keystone PVA to find out how you can sponsor one or more wheelchair athletes.

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.

YOU NEED TO KNOW

that Keystone PVA receives almost all of its funding from contributions made by the general public—our programs for paralyzed veterans are NOT funded by your tax dollars.

It is through this generosity that we are able to continue supporting SCI/D research, provide programs for, and advocate for the many needs of paralyzed veterans.