Keystone PVA continues its mission

The mission of the Keystone Chapter of the 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.

OPPORTUNITIES IN WHEELCHAIR SPORTS AND RECREATION:
The National Veterans Wheelchair Games are considered the pinnacle of a paralyzed vet’s annual physical fitness regime. At the 2012 Games in Richmond, Virginia, Keystone Chapter athletes Ed Leeper (left) and Chris Fidler competed in archery. Athletes may enter up to five events; most Keystone Chapter athletes enter four or five. Support for athletes participating in the Games is the chapter’s most expensive program.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE:
At the annual Expo hosted by Mobility Works in Wall, Pa., Bill and Jean Jakovac and other members staffed the chapter’s exhibit table to explain how PVA and its chapters work for better health care for all veterans. They also told visitors about the other services offered by the Keystone Chapter.

INSIDE: Read Keystone Chapter’s annual independent audit letter on page 13
Supporting spinal cord injury and disease research:
President Fred Tregaskes (left) gripped hands with Rory Cooper, Ph.D., after he presented a check in support of the work of the Human Engineering Research Center, a joint Department of Veterans Affairs-University of Pittsburgh program that works to improve assistive technology.

Advocating for the rights of disabled people, including elimination of barriers to mobility:
Keystone chapter’s interest in advocating for improved mobility got a big boost when Toyota Motor Corporation awarded a Toyota Sienna adapted van. Keystone Chapter Executive Director Joe Dornbrock entered Toyota’s “100 Cars for Good” contest on the chapter’s behalf, and thanks to many, many friends of paralyzed vets who voted for the chapter on the day of the vote, we outpolled the other worthy charities that entered in the contest. The van has been modified for wheelchair access by Keystone Coach Works of Bethel Park, Pa., and was scheduled for delivery through Rohrich Toyota of Pittsburgh in February 2013. It is the chapter’s intention to arrange for transportation for annual exams for paralyzed veterans in the Pittsburgh region who do not qualify for transportation under VA’s current rules. We can use some volunteer drivers!

President’s Report  .  Fred Tregaskes

Not that any particular paralyzed vet is always in the best of health — after all, health advocacy is the major reason for the existence of the Paralyzed Veterans of America — but I’ve had some frequent and very difficult health challenges in the past year, and I’ve not been as active as I’d prefer.

I hope you’ll look beyond that and see that our chapter operates not from the top down but as a real team, committed to the elements of our mission. This way, we’ve been able to let many members rise to the levels of accomplishment that they prefer, taking personal responsibility and enjoying their successes.

We’ve had an especially active year advancing the health care needs of paralyzed veterans in Pennsylvania. My special thanks to our hospital liaison officers, and to our many donors and other supporters who make their work possible!
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, 2012 was held on October 4, 2012 at the Hampton Banquet Hall in Gibsonia, Pa. Approximately 100 people attended: 22 Chapter members, 16 associate members, their spouses and/or their attendants, 12 members of the Albert Gallatin Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, and several chapter volunteers were among the 100 persons attending the banquet.

I coordinated the annual Chapter picnic held at Kennywood Amusement Park in West Mifflin in July. Almost 100 Chapter members, associate members, spouses and/or attendants, children and grandchildren, and chapter volunteers attended Kennywood. They enjoyed unlimited rides and a buffet meal, with all costs picked up by the Chapter.

The Chapter had 23 members attending the annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Richmond, Virginia in June 2012. Although there were many storms and power failures, everybody enjoyed the week and won many medals.

Research
Keystone PVA donated money during FY 2012 to the Human Engineering Research Laboratory (HERL), a joint project of the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the University of Pittsburgh, which improves wheelchair use and develops other assistive technologies. Keystone PVA members assist in various HERL research programs when invited. The Chapter also donated to the Yale Center for Spinal Cord Injury Research. We also make annual donations to the local chapters of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, ALS and the Lupus Foundation, all of which are concerned with spinal cord diseases.

The Keystone PVA Board of Directors, 2012

The 2012 Board of Directors at a monthly meeting: clockwise from the left are 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. In the inset at lower left are two directors who usually join the meeting by conference phone: Chris Fidler and Gary Orlando. Mr. Parkinson and Mrs. Strang are not Board members but are always invited to attend.

Members who have passed on to the Eternity Chapter

FY 2012 :

01 October 2011 to 30 September 2012

All towns in Pennsylvania except where noted

Bernard Riggin, Uniontown, 10 October 2011
Harry Malone, Cabot, 19 January 2012
Jacob Peterson, Pittsburgh, 05 February 2012
Glenn Weyand, Pittsburgh, 20 June 2012

And we recently learned of this earlier death:
Andrew Goncar, Pittsburgh, 01 June 2011

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Secretary’s report
I became the chapter’s corporate secretary mid-year following a resignation. The term expires next year, and we are looking for a life member to assume the duties at the next election. The minutes of Board meetings are taken by the executive director, subject to my review, the review of the Executive Committee, and approval by the full Board of Directors.

Treasurer’s report
All PVA chapters received substantial funding reductions from national PVA this year. With this in mind, your Board of Directors approved a frugal but fair budget for Fiscal Year 2013, which began on 01 October 2012.

Keystone PVA’s FY2012 books were inspected by Pittsburgh-based Sisterson & Company., LLP. The auditor’s opinion letter is located 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.

Fundraising report
We have been involved with the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) in three regions of Pennsylvania: 3 Rivers/Pennsylvania West, which covers primarily southwestern Pa. and parts of West Virginia and Ohio; Central Pennsylvania CFC, which covers a portion of the Commonwealth from roughly Altoona to Harrisburg; and North Coast CFC, which includes the tri-county Erie area. Federal employees can now donate to us through the CFC. Successful fundraising and name recognition have gone hand-in-hand, as we expected. Sharpsburg American Legion Post 106 donated $500 to us from their August 2012 golf outing, and we will be helping them have a larger outing in FY2013. Maddak, Inc., an adaptive equipment manufacturer, located in New Jersey, donated a bowling ball pusher stick because of what we are and what we do.

Longtime partner American Thrift Center, whose store is in West Mifflin, Pa., collects donated second-hand clothing and household items for resale, and we get a commission from their gross sales. The American Thrift Center is greatly increasing the number of its collection boxes located in high visibility areas and our logo, name, and website are on them. American Thrift 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.

As our services to paralyzed veterans have become more dependent on private-sector donations, we are most grateful to local businesses, foundations, and individuals. We have enjoyed much support from Mobility Works, among others. Some particularly generous donors in FY2012 included Sam and Sue Weber, Tom and Debbie Goral, the Consol Energy Company, the West Shore Posse, and Others First. See our detailed donor’s list on page 12.

Keystone PVA’s work for paralyzed veterans is also supported by contributions from individuals and local organizations. In FY 2012 we received no funding from local, state, or federal governments.

Keystone PVA was one of 500 nonprofit organizations who competed in Toyota’s “100 Cars for Good” challenge, which gave away a variety of Toyota vehicles to charitable organizations over 100 days during the summer of 2012. Our many friends voted on Facebook for us and we outpolled four other worthy nonprofits. We have chosen a Toyota Sienna van, modified for wheelchair transport by Keystone Coach Works of Bethel Park, Pa. We will receive our van from Rohrich Toyota of Pittsburgh in February 2013.

Sharing & Caring, etc.
I represent the chapter on the Sharing and Caring Committee which helps hospitalized veterans. For the four days following Labor Day, we take 600 veterans from the area’s VAMCs, and nursing/personal care homes out on the Gateway Clipper’s Majestic. For a couple hours, these veterans are treated to a buffet lunch, entertainment, dance contests, and sightseeing on Pittsburgh’s three rivers. Upon returning to their busses, each one receives a gift bag of assorted items.

The HOPE Network received a grant from the Paralympic Committee to form an air rifle clinic. Our members have formed the core of the initial group of veterans in this 13 week pilot program. We have also provided some funds supporting the HOPE Network to keep this clinic going.
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. Our athletes earned a record 50 medals at the 2012 Games in Richmond. We had twenty Keystone PVA members participating with Jerry Baylor winning five medals, Rory Cooper won five gold medals in swimming events; Raymond “Joe” Gilkinson, Gary Kirkendall, and Gary Orlando all rose to the occasion to excel in their respective events.

Other national programs available to members include the Winter Ski Clinic in Colorado, bass fishing tournaments, trapshooting events, billiards, and 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.

As new members come on board, our chapter is getting more involved in sports. Our members participate 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 offers many organized sports and recreation opportunities. There is a bowling league, bass tournament, hunting, fishing, 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.

Quad Rugby … the chapter supported the Pittsburgh Steelwheelers, the Pittsburgh area’s quad rugby team. The team includes two of our members, Joe Gilkinson and Jerry Baylor. Our chapter gave a donation to the 5K race which is a fundraiser for the Steelwheelers held every year, and to a quad rugby tournament held at Slippery Rock University. Our quad rugby team participates in tournaments at Slippery Rock University, and we travel to Philadelphia, Columbus, Charlotte, Michigan, and Florida for competition. This activity has increased public awareness of paralyzed veterans. We have been able to encourage new members joining as associate members and we have been successful in securing speaking engagements to reach out to other people and organizations.

Trap Shoot … We began looking into hosting our first trap shoot on the PVA National circuit. This event will take place during Labor Day Weekend 2013.

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 report that the hunting there is 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 participate in this hunt.

Wounded Warriors … 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 for up to three games per week; we report scores in our newsletter.

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

(Continued on page 6)
Sports & Recreation report

Continued from page 5

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 members and their families each summer; the chapter sponsors admission and dinner for our group. The event enables our members 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. Many of our members participate and enjoy a day of hunting.

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

Any member interested in getting involved in any of these programs or having additional information can contact me, Jerry Baylor, Sports Director, through the office, at any time; I will do my best to help you.

Service report

Bill Jakovac, Service Officer

Keystone PVA members monitor the Seating Clinic 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 Pennsylvania), and in private nursing homes.

See page 8 for a list of our VAVS representatives and page 11 for a list of PVA’s service officers in and around Pennsylvania. Keystone PVA would like capable members to volunteer to be VAVS deputies.

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 inpatients 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 get a copy of PN magazine from the national PVA monthly.

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.

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Program reports, continued

Volunteers

Agnes Strang
Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteer hours for the 12 months ending September 30, 2012 for VA Volunteer Service totaled 5,498. Volunteer non-VAVS hours donated to service to the chapter totaled 4,335.

The Volunteers of Keystone PVA deserve a special “Thank You” for their precious time and energy given with the aim of helping our veterans, and help they do. All volunteer time must be received in the Keystone PVA office by the 7th of each month so it can be submitted to the National PVA office in a timely manner.

Several 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. On behalf of the Board of Directors and Members, thank you for your time given to help others. We value your time and encourage our members’ family, friends, and neighbors to also become involved by giving some time to help our veterans.

Volunteers are the hallmark of our organization!

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 2012, Keystone PVA sent two people for the intensive, two-day training session, then one more member of the chapter went to Washington to join them in visiting the offices of members of Congress from Pennsylvania. Once again, they started by thanking 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 2012 involved more participation by the chapter in events and meetings held by other organizations, including exhibits open to the public. We began to focus more strongly on the elements of the PVA mission that causes our organization to be much more influential that our small size would indicate. We set up and staffed exhibit tables at Combined Federal Campaign promotion events, which helped us tell our story and explain our work to more of the public.

During FY 2012, we got involved with Habitat for Humanity, the InterService Family Assistance Council, and the student veterans at local colleges and university. We continued our relationships with the Three Rivers Center for Independent Living and the Veterans Leadership Council.

From time to time, members of the chapter were invited to speak and present at special events, usually during Memorial Day or Veterans’ 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 22 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.

National Service Officer’s Report

C. David Parkinson, SBA, NSO Pittsburgh

This past year, The Pittsburgh office of the Paralyzed Veterans of America assisted more than twenty-five new claimants and grossed more than $1,543,739 in benefits for our members and other veterans. It is through your support we are able to function at such a high level. Please keep us informed of changes to your life such as a new residence or a new family member or most importantly, a change in your health that affects your valuable benefits you have fought so hard to obtain.

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

PVA Service Office Room 1602
1000 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
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 volunteers improves each year. Many hundreds of photos are submitted each year, and though only a small number can be used, having a selection to choose from is helpful, and our contributors have been submitting photos of higher quality than before.

E-mail, keystonempva@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. We were most gratified to receive a huge response to our e-mail request in August 2012 to support our successful bid to win our day of the Toyota “100 Cars for Good” contest. We had approximately 750 e-mail addresses at the time.

Web site, www.kpva.org
The overall appearance of the web site remains that established several years ago by Webmaster Craig Schenker, but more information and more pages have been added. And a "Donate Now" button has been added to aid fundraising.

Teleconferencing
The chapter continued to use teleconference phones to link Membership Meeting sites together for nearly an hour each meeting. We are particularly grateful for the efforts by our members in the Lebanon, Pa. area, who join the other site or sites at least four times a year. In addition to direct linking of phones, we often access the PVA conference bridge, which allows us to accommodate several locations at one time, all of which control their own call-in times.

Contact information for the 2013 Board of Directors
To provide for easy communication with members of the Board, the current (FY 2013) officers and directors are providing their mailing addresses and home telephone numbers. They ask that people respect the opportunity and first try to reach them through the Chapter office.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Benjamin Williams  
204 Arlington Drive, Canonsburg PA 15217, phone 724-746-4330

VAVS representatives as of 30 Sep
James E. Van Zandt VAMC, Altoona  
William D. Lightner, representative  
John Lightner, deputy

Butler VAMC  
Jim Riemer, representative  
Dave Patton, deputy  
Fred Tregaskes, deputy

Erie VAMC  
Gary Orlando, representative  
John Larese, deputy

Lebanon VAMC  
Chris Fidler, representative  
Ken Walters, deputy

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System  
H. John Heinz Progressive Care Ctr  
Tom Strang, representative  
Jerry Baylor, deputy

University Drive Medical Center  
Ben Williams, deputy
Site Leader and VA Voluntary Service reports

Gary M. Orlando, Sr.
Director; Erie VAVS Representative and Site Leader

We have lost a great man who was Past Chapter President and Past National President just recently, Victor McCoy. He and his wife, Judy, grew to be great friends of mine way back when I was in the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter. May he rest in peace.

The NVWG was a record breaker for the Keystone Chapter. We won 50 medals collectively. What dedicated athletes we have! Let’s hope for another great year when we travel to Tampa in July. Let’s keep up the great effort in Tampa.

There have been many changes at the Erie VA Medical Center in the past year. The construction seems to be nonstop since I wrote last year’s annual report. The new Behavioral Health Building (BHC) has the exterior wall going up now. As soon as the roof goes on, the inside construction will begin during the cold winter months. If there is one unit that needs enlarged, it is the BHC throughout the VA System. With the PTSD that our OIF/OEF/OND Veterans are experiencing, all of the Councilors are pressed for room and more workers. The most anticipated project that will start in the spring is the parking garage. The Erie VAMC is cooperating with PVA Architecture on the aspects of the ADA requirements with everything from parking spaces to the size of exam rooms to make sure our wheelchair bound veterans have clear access. There are numerous smaller construction projects going on inside of the Erie VAMC also. Within a year or two, the Erie VAMC will be a top-notch facility even more able to take care of our fellow veterans.

During the past year, I attended all of the Quarterly VAVS Meetings along with all of the Veterans Advisory Council Meetings and have learned quite a bit. My health only had a small impact on my duties this past year. We did lose two volunteers this past year. One member passed away unexpectedly and one member moved to a warmer climate. Both will be missed. I will try my best to replace those two volunteers. We have a new associate member who wants to volunteer and I am constantly trying to recruit at least one or two more volunteers this next year. The Erie VAMC volunteers did amass nearly 1,500 hours of volunteer hours.

The HLO Program is going strong at the Chapter level. I only wish all the site leaders could receive formal training, like Chris Fidler and I did last year. This is a vital program in many ways and I can foresee it growing at the National level. In fact, National has sent several positive remarks at how thorough the Keystone PVA reports are.

I recently was appointed to the National PVA Field Advisory Council (FAC). I am both anxious and hopeful with this new appointment. I hope to make the Keystone PVA proud of me in this new endeavor.

I am proud to say that, with the help of Joe Dornbrock, our executive director, we were awarded a brand new Toyota Sienna wheelchair-adapted van from Toyota USA. What an honor!

I look forward to taking our programs to an even higher level in Fiscal Year 2013.

Chris Fidler
Director; Lebanon VAVS Representative and Site Leader

2012 was, in my opinion, a very productive year for me. I was able to plan and successfully execute the first of what I hope to be many air rifle clinics. With the help of the Palmyra Sportsmen’s Association, the National Rifle Association, and the Keystone PVA, we were able to teach a group of 11 local veterans the fundamentals of shooting air rifles. The event included a competition at the end, and everyone involved was grateful to Keystone PVA for sponsoring an event for our disabled veteran community.

I worked with the Lebanon Recreational Therapy staff throughout the year to help promote sports and recreational activities. Two other Keystone PVA members and I attended a fly fishing event in June. We have been trying to recruit wheelchair athletes to participate in the Wheelchair Games, and succeeded in financing one veteran, who went to the Games in Richmond. He has since become an associate member, and is planning on going to Tampa. Efforts are ongoing to involve more of the Department of Veterans Affairs personnel in finding new wheelchair athletes, and to promote other wheelchair sports.

Over the course of the year, other Keystone PVA members and I have promoted the Keystone Chapter by staffing information booths at various “open houses” throughout the south central Pa. area. These included the open house event at Total Mobility in Harrisburg and the Carlisle Barracks’ “Retirement Appreciation Days”. I also accepted an invitation to speak at a Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) fundraising event at the Carlisle Naval Supply base in Carlisle. We also had an information booth at this event, and we made several good contacts with other local organizations. I believe several donations have been made to the Keystone Chapter as a result of these efforts.

I have also been active in other local organizations, in part as a way to help promote Keystone PVA and to help make contacts in the local community. I accepted a position on the Executive Committee of the Lebanon VA Volunteer Services board. I am also currently the first vice president of the

(Continued on page 10)
Lebanon Veterans Advisory Council. Both organizations work to improve the lives of local veterans, which allows me to make sure that the interests of our members and the Chapter are also considered. Since our Chapter president has been unable to travel, I have also taken on the job as the Keystone Chapter representative on the Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission at Fort Indiantown Gap. I was recently present when Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett met with the Commission to sign into law several veteran-oriented bills. Participating in these other VSOs has allowed me to promote the Keystone PVA chapter and also make contacts with other local VSO leaders.

As a volunteer at the Lebanon VAMC, I have been working hard to promote good will within, and I’ve also been trying to help support the needs of our wheelchair veterans. All of the local VSOs have been helping raise money to finance a new wheelchair-accessible bus, which the VAVS received in July. The bus cost over $160,000.00 and was paid for without one penny from the government or taxpayers. I have also been fighting the VA to find out why the therapeutic pool was closed down and nothing was being done to repair it. Also, I’ve been trying to find out why the contract between the local YMCA and VA was set up so that it seemed to be so one-sided to the detriment of the veterans. This is an ongoing challenge, one I don’t intend to quit.

I’ve been volunteering three days a week at the Lebanon VAMC, working primarily in the Veterans Activity Center. But I will go wherever they need me to. I recently received my “1,000 Hours” volunteer pin from the PVA national office. I hope to continue working hard in 2013, to promote the mission of PVA and the Keystone Chapter, and to help improve the lives of my fellow veterans.

In FY 2012, we applied for participation in the Combined Federal Campaigns for the area around Erie, Pa. (part of the “North Coast” CFC) and for Central Pa., stretching roughly from Altoona to Harrisburg. The CFC is the only permitted solicitation of federal employees by charities.

We also applied for and were accepted for participation in the United Way of Allegheny County, Pa, which includes Pittsburgh. The United Way is business-oriented charity solicitation program, separate from the CFCs.

American Legion Post 106 held a small golf outing in August 2012 and much to our surprise, presented us with the proceeds of the event. We will work with our fellow veterans of Post 106 for a bigger golf outing in 2013.

Keystone PVA was accepted as a host for a stop on the 2013 PVA Trap Shoot Circuit. Plans call for the event to happen on Labor Day Weekend at the Clairton Sportsmen’s Club, about 10 miles south of Pittsburgh.

Contact with the Mon-Yough Trail Council led to adding a wheelchair division to the Council’s Half-Marathon/5K/Walk and Run in April 2013. We hope to have good participation and become a formal co-sponsor for a “Walk, Run and Roll” in future years.

Completions of agreements for income-generating business enterprises with other organizations were being developed at the end of FY 2012.

With the development of a new national “brand” for PVA and its chapters, we began the review of our communications opportunities (business cards, letterhead, web site, vehicles and donation boxes, to name a few) and how we will go about making the change. This change is particularly encouraging because of how it will tie the work of the chapters and the national PVA into a unified image, making it easier to convey the work we do and the value of supporting it to the public. The timetable calls for the brand implementation to be in place near the end of 2013.

The generosity of donors fully funds the Keystone PVA’s Easter bag project, which delivers elementary student-decorated bags of goodies to nearly 500 hospitalized veterans at Eastertime. Agnes Strang (yellow shirt) organizes the event and has the help of volunteers (left to right) Jean Jakovac, Leona and Bob Cincirpini, Sarah Jarvis, Sarah Congie, and Cody, Miranda, and Jamie Morris.
Office management and administration during fiscal year 2012 replaced the demands made by the 2011 National Veterans Wheelchair Games, which caused the largest fiscal-year financial loss in years, with fundraising efforts to help our budget recover and to make up for a large cut in financial support from the national PVA. Those efforts included participation in three Combined Federal Campaign districts in Pennsylvania, participation in the United Way of Allegheny County (Pa.), and a greater level of outreach to the general community to tell our story and seek support.

Though the solution to balancing the chapter budget is mainly to increase income, the staff sought more ways to trim expenses, including postponing building maintenance, more tightly controlling utility use, and reducing printing costs.

The executive director spent much time on personnel management, legal compliance, agenda preparation and follow-through, and building maintenance. His main focus, however, was on building the chapter’s civic connections, public profile, and favorable image.

When national PVA announced a program to create a national “brand” for the entire organization, which had allowed for chapters to use a variety of images to identify themselves, Keystone Chapter was already positioned to convert to the new red-white-and-blue “Speedy” image and primary identification as “Paralyzed Veterans,” leaving the words “of America” and “Keystone Chapter” on a secondary line. The chapter expects full implementation of the change in 2013.

Office Manager Diane Byrnes began her sixth 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 seven and a half years at the end of FY2012.
Keystone PVA thanks you for your generosity

These folks made direct donations to the Keystone PVA in our fiscal year 2012 (01 October 2011 to 30 September 2012). 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
Aetna Foundation, Havertown
American Legion, Thomas A. Lewellen Post 240
American Legion Ocean City (N.J.) Post 524
American Legion, George L. Walter Post 106, Sharpsburg
American Legion Post 261, Beaver Falls
Anonymous
Catherine J. Campbell, Mechanicsburg
Janette Cassol, McKeesport
Ann Charmely, Castle Shannon
Gerald P. Clemo, Lancaster
Conso Energy Inc., Canonsburg
Robert & Ellen Coret, Pittsburgh
Kellie Cramer, Reynoldsdale
Terry Lynn Edwards, M.D., Freeport
Eugene Fedak, Evans City
Barbara Graves, Schenectady, N.Y.
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Haicom, Erie
Terrisa L. Hohn, Marietta
Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh
Jeanne Keenan, Castle Shannon
John E. & Kasey Kennedy, Bellevue
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kuczinski, Upper St. Clair
Richard Lagrotte, North Wales (Pa.)
Anthony Manella, Pittsburgh
Mr. & Mrs. Frank McKee, Upper St. Clair
Mobility Works, Wall
Janice A. Moore, Pittsburgh
Rosalie M. Murrer Charitable Fund, Mt. Lebanon
Edward Nock, Pittsburgh
William O’Neil, Moon Township
Others First/Cars Helping Veterans, Detroit, Mich.
Patriot Guard Riders—Pennsylvania, Macungie
The Pittsburgh Foundation, Charlotte Parks Kelly Fund
Pittsburgh Gives Charitable Gift Card Program
St. Raphael School, Pittsburgh
Kathy Simpson, Pittsburgh
Debra Thomas, New Kensington
Elizabeth Tkach, Castle Shannon
Samuel J. & Susan M. Weber, Robinson Township
West Shore Posse, Inc./Donald C. Jones, Jacobs
Wade M. Wilson, McDonald
William Zally, Jr., Port Matilda
Edwin & Mardi Zerblinl, Greensburg

American Legion Charles Sutton Post 128, Bolivar
American Legion Post 222, Clymer
American Legion Post 523, Cosgrove
American Legion Ernest E. Jobes Post 212, Donora
American Legion Post 380, Dravosburg
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 380, Dravosburg
American Legion Post 160, Farrell
American Legion D. Paulson Foster Post 82, Green Tree
American Legion Post 862, McKees Rocks
American Legion Post 159, Mercer
American Legion Post 481, Middletown
American Legion Thomas McKee Post 28, Monessen
American Legion George L. Walter Post 106, Sharpsburg
American Legion Post 48, Harrison Twp., Allegheny Co.
American Legion Post 19, New Brighton
American Legion Lauter Falkner Post 683, Saxonburg
American Legion Trafford Post 331, Trafford
American Legion Post 51, Uniontown
American Legion Post 114, Vandergrift
Edith Bernstein, Wilkinsburg
Carrick Brentwood Legionnaires, Post 725
Edgar K. & Carol D. Blose, Punxsutawney
Ernest Clark, Wales Center, N.Y.
Floyd D. Lutten, McMurray
Virginia Mance, Turtle Creek
Presbyterian Church of Pitcairn, Pitcairn
Mr. & Mrs. William Schenker, Allison Park
Teamsters Local 205, White Oak
Veteran Firefighters, North Hills (Pittsburgh)
VFW Barclay-Robinson-Phillips Post 567, McDonald
VFW Bentz Isles Post 6679, Swissvale
VFW Etna-Shaler Post 9197, Etna
VFW 444, District 27 Ladies Auxiliary, Derry
VFW Post 3945, Morningside, Pittsburgh

MEMORIAL DONATIONS
In memory of Leo J. Donahue
Jerry & Regina Blissey, Dallas, Texas
Wayne & Bonnie Chalovich
George M. Day, Pittsburgh
Jeannie DeArmond, Pleasant Hills
Susan & Stuart Emery, South Park
E. & L. Matuszak, Mars
Michael & Kathleen Rupert, Wexford
Jeffrey & Nancy Stukus, Trafford
In memory of Benjamin F. Radelline
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Frey Jr., Allentown
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Marakovits, Whitehall (Eastern Pa.)

(Continued on page 15)
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. ("Chapter") as of September 30, 2012, and 2011, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Chapter’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

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 audits provide 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, 2012, 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 17, 2013
KEYSTONE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC  
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES  
For the Years Ended September 30, 2012 and 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unrestricted net assets</th>
<th>9/30/2012</th>
<th>9/30/2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues and support:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National PVA contributions</td>
<td>$174,472</td>
<td>$205,668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-cash property and equipment contribution</td>
<td>59,508</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrift Shop Fundraising</td>
<td>52,120</td>
<td>50,017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Contributions</td>
<td>32,927</td>
<td>29,387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined Federal Campaign</td>
<td>3,042</td>
<td>2,779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter Advertising</td>
<td>1,295</td>
<td>1,214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunting and Fishing Tournaments</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership dues</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from investments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and dividends</td>
<td>32,738</td>
<td>31,994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net gain (loss) on investments</td>
<td>63,154</td>
<td>(25,397)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total unrestricted revenue and support</strong></td>
<td>420,481</td>
<td>298,412</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Unrestricted expenses: |           |           |
| Program services: |           |           |
| Membership and benefits | 123,448  | 149,246  |
| Public affairs | 98,284    | 134,200   |
| Research | 22,803    | 31,820    |
| **Support services:** |           |           |
| General and Administrative | 82,001   | 82,001   |
| Fundraising | 9,351     | 9,351     |
| **Total unrestricted expenses** | 337,414  | 406,618   |

Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets | 83,067   | (110,031) |

Temporarily restricted net assets |           |           |
| Net assets released from restrictions | -       | (1,825)   |

Net increase (decrease) in net assets | 83,067   | (110,031) |

Net assets at beginning of year | 1,475,755 | 1,585,786 |

Net assets at end of year | $1,558,822  | $1,475,755 |

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Page 14  Keystone PVA 2012 Annual Report
KEYSTONE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
For the Years Ended September 30, 2012 and 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>September 30,</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and equivalents</td>
<td>$ 113,603</td>
<td>$ 419,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising and fundraising receivables</td>
<td>4,967</td>
<td>4,592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment receivable</td>
<td>59,508</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>9,189</td>
<td>10,509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply inventory</td>
<td>1,176</td>
<td>2,268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>188,443</strong></td>
<td><strong>436,410</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments at fair value</td>
<td>1,139,121</td>
<td>808,121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
<td>259,378</td>
<td>256,057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,587,807</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,500,588</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>$ 28,985</td>
<td>$ 24,833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>1,558,822</td>
<td>1,475,755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,587,807</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,500,588</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thanks for your generosity

(Continued from page 12)

Theresa Rosencranz, Northampton
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Worman, Whitehall (Eastern Pa.)
Grace Zeller & Family, Copley
In memory of Michael Rickenbach
   James J. Kokoros, North Hills (Pittsburgh)
   Patricia & George Spahr, North Hills (Pittsburgh)
In memory of Jim Vescovi
   Donna S. Bannon, Rifle, Colorado

DONATIONS supporting wheelchair athletes participating in the NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES
VFW Sgt. Ellis R. Weich Post 2088, Everett

Thomas & Debbie Goral, North Hills (Pittsburgh)
Mobility Works, Wall

DONATION in support of the chapter's annual OPEN HOUSE
Mobility Works, Wall

NON-CASH DONATIONS
Gloria Atherholt, Danlesville
Maddock, Inc., Wayne, New Jersey
Lois A. McConnell, Aspinwall

(All cities in Pennsylvania unless otherwise noted)
Paralyzed Veterans of America is one of only 38 veterans’ service organizations that are legally able to represent veterans to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (the “VA”).

Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Keystone Chapter are NOT parts of the VA. We independently work with the VA to develop and improve better care for veterans with spinal cord dysfunctions, work that benefits millions of non-paralyzed veterans and civilians with paralysis.

Paralyzed Veterans of America works with three other, much larger partners — the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, and AMVETS — to write the budget guidelines for the VA’s Veterans’ Health Administration. Those guidelines, known as the Independent Budget, are written by a team of 25 authors, 13 of whom are from PVA. Keystone and the other chapters monitor the care of veterans at VA medical centers and provide a constant stream of information that shapes the IB.

Though we help develop the IB and meet with our members of Congress to advance the needs of paralyzed veterans, none of the money appropriated for the VA funds Keystone PVA. Our chapter gets some operating funds from the national PVA and must raise the balance of our operating budget from private sources — businesses, foundations, and individuals.

Paralyzed Veterans help themselves and all veterans. The monitoring of veterans health care and the encouragement of veterans to get more involved in their own life activities is mostly done by the paralyzed veterans themselves. They are grateful for the generosity of donors who support their vital work.