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.

This report features the independent auditor’s letter on page 13.
The 2013 Board of Directors included eight of the nine people pictured here in the Keystone chapter’s conference room, plus President Fred Tregaskes, who was not present. Clockwise from the left are Secretary-Treasurer Bill Jakovac, George “Murph” Neelan, Bill Lightner (who joined the Board for the FY 2014 term), Ben Williams, Vice President Jim Riemer, Chris Fidler, Gary Orlando, Tom Strang, and Jerry “Bull” Baylor.

Contact information for the 2014 Board of Directors

To provide for easy communication with members of the Board, the current (FY 2014) 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.

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

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

William D. Lightner, Secretary
565 Brush Mountain Road
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648-9241
phone 814-696-9597

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

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

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

Gary M. Orlando, Sr.
4365 Miller Ave., 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
**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, 2013 was held on October 3, 2013 at the Hampton Banquet Hall in Gibsonia, Pa. Out of 290 members, only 17 of our members attended the banquet. Associate members, their spouses and/or attendant, members of the Albert Gallatin School District Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (Jr. ROTC) and chapter volunteers also attended, for a total of approximately 100 present. Due to the partial government shutdown, the majority of the Department of Veterans Affairs employees who we invited to join us were not permitted to attend.

Every year, I coordinate the annual chapter picnic held at Kennywood Amusement Park in West Mifflin, Pa. Approximately 100 Chapter life members and associate members, their spouses and/or attendants, children & grandchildren and chapter volunteers attended Kennywood at no cost to them with unlimited rides and a free buffet meal.

The annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games were attended by 23 members in Tampa, Florida. The Games have changed in different ways. Participants are now eligible to compete in and earn medals in more than five events. It was hot in Florida but the Games were as good ever. The Games in 2014 will return to the Keystone State, specifically, Philadelphia.

**Research**
Keystone PVA donates money the Human Engineering Research Laboratory (HERL), a partnership of the University of Pittsburgh and the Department of Veterans Affairs that works with wheelchairs and assistive technology. Keystone PVA members assist in various HERL research programs. We also make annual donations to the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System for supplemental recreation and patient support; the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the ALS Association and the Lupus Foundation. (These last three deal with spinal cord diseases that affect nearly half of paralyzed veterans.)

**FIVE FACTS you ought to know about Paralyzed Veterans**

**Fact One:**  
**Paralyzed veterans help themselves.**  
Right after World War II, groups of military veterans injured in that conflict gathered in several places in the United States to encourage and provide expertise to the Veterans’ Administration (now the Department of Veterans Affairs, still known as the “VA”) These groups evolved over the years into the Paralyzed Veterans of America, whose headquarters is in Washington, D.C., and which has 34 chapters across the nation, including Keystone.

**Our mission** 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.

**Fact Two:**  
**Paralyzed Veterans of America and its chapters are NOT parts of the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs.**

We couldn’t do our jobs if we were. A major part of our health care advocacy involves keeping tabs on how our fellow paralyzed veterans are being treated in VA hospitals and other medical facilities. We report, without undue influence from VA officials, about the care our members get—or sometimes don’t get, and we work for better treatment.

**Fact Three:**  
**Paralyzed Veterans of America, its chapters and its partners provide strong guidance to Congress and the VA in writing the $68 billion VHA budget.**
In partnership with AMVETS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), PVA and its chapters annually write the Independent Budget (the IB), which Congress and the VA use as their guide for writing the budget for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), which is the largest part of the VA budget. Together, we have the expertise to effectively guide the VA and assist the Congress in appropriating the right funding for veterans’ care.

The Independent Budget gained great credibility when the VA’s own budget came up short, but the IB had

*(Continued on page 4)*
accurately forecasted the health care needs of our military veterans. Since then, the IB has become a critical tool for the Congress to appropriate funds and the VA to allocate them. Now, we all work together even more diligently to get the VHA budget right.

Though PVA is the smallest of the veterans’ service organizations that write the IB, over half of the authors are PVA members or staff. That’s because the nature of spinal cord injuries and disease involve a broad range of medical issues and make the Paralyzed Veterans of America well-suited to advise the VA on health care.

Keystone PVA contributes to The IB through its monitoring the health care of our fellow veterans and reporting comprehensively every month to the PVA national organization. Then we personally visit our members of Congress to let them know how the taxpayers’ dollars are being spent by the VA.

Fact Four:  
PVA punches way above its weight class.
For a small veterans’ service organization (VSO), we pack a powerful punch. Consider our dominant role in writing the Independent Budget (Fact Three). That budget doesn’t just address the health care needs of paralyzed vets; it is a budget for ALL veterans who use the VA’s medical centers and community health services.

And our advocacy to advance accessibility, mobility, and compliance with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) helps the millions of Americans to live their lives more in the mainstream than ever before.

Though there are thousands of organizations in the U.S. that try to help vets, only 38 VSOs can legally represent veterans to the VA in order to get the benefits to which the vets are entitled, and PVA is one of them. PVA has a “national service officer” in most major metropolitan areas, including Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. Our NSOs are highly trained and experienced, and successfully obtained over $1 billion in new and current benefits claims for veterans and their survivors in fiscal year 2013.

Keystone PVA is the tip of the Paralyzed Veterans’ powerful spear for the veterans we serve in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Fact Five:  
Keystone PVA gets no tax dollars. None.
Our chapter’s small budget depends on some support from the national PVA, proceeds from the sale of goods by the American Thrift Center, and private donations.

Because Keystone PVA is a charity organized under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code, and because we are approved by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a charitable, nonprofit organization, your donation is tax deductible on your federal tax return if you itemize.

The tax-exempt status of Keystone PVA is only partial. The only exemptions specifically made are sales & use taxes (though not all) and property tax on our small office building in Sharpsburg, Pa., near Pittsburgh. We pay plenty of others, and our employees pay every tax on their income that for-profit employees do.
Secretary/Treasurer’s Report; Fundraising Report . . . . . Bill Jakovac

Secretary’s report
I continued for another year as the chapter’s corporate secretary after being appointed the previous year to fill a vacancy caused by a resignation. The term expired and a new secretary has been elected. We made the taking of the minutes of the Board meetings a task of the office manager, but for the time being, they are reviewed and amended by the executive director before they are reviewed by the Executive Committee, then reviewed, amended if necessary, and approved by the full Board of Directors. The executive director continues to take the minutes of the Executive Committee and Membership Meetings.

Treasurer’s report
A portion of the funding reduction made in FY2012 to all PVA chapters from the national PVA budget was restored late in our fiscal year 2013. With increased donations and a much less-costly copier agreement, we were able to formulate a balanced budget for FY2014, which began 01 October 2013.

Keystone PVA’s FY2013 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 again held a golf outing and doubled the donation to the chapter from the event to $1,000. During FY2013 we qualified for participation in the United Way of Allegheny County.

There has been a growing trend for individuals, foundations, and other veterans service organizations to provide support for Keystone Paralyzed Veterans; please see the donors report. To encourage that, Board members and other active members of the Keystone Chapter are supplied with business cards and the “Five Facts” flyer, which is explained further in the Communications report.

Longtime partner American Thrift Center, whose store is in West Mifflin, Pa., collects donated second-hand clothing and household items for resale, and the chapter receives a commission from their gross sales. The American Thrift Center increased the number of its collection boxes located in high visibility areas in southwestern Pennsylvania (primarily Allegheny County) to 150 by the end of FY2013 and has begun to place our logo and name on all four sides. 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.

In FY 2013 we received no funding from local, state, or federal governments.

Many nonprofit organizations are criticized for spending money on fundraising. The fact is, fundraising is expensive. At some point in the process of reaching generous donors to ask for their support, money has to be spent, or an active, willing and capable corps of volunteers must be recruited, trained, and engaged. Always be suspicious when you are told that “almost no funds were spent for fundraising.” Except in rare cases where one or a few very large sums of money from a very few sources are committed to a project or a cause, people willing to support a cause must be contacted at some significant cost. Then there are the costs of followup, accounting, reporting and other compliance requirements. There is no free lunch.

Keystone PVA is most grateful for all of its donors.

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 500 veterans from the area’s VA medical centers and nursing/personal care homes out on the Gateway Clipper’s The Empress. For three hours, these veterans were treated to a buffet lunch, entertainment, dance contests, and sightseeing on Pittsburgh’s three rivers.
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 regional and national sports and recreation events, such as the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. During the 2013 Games in Tampa, Florida, our 19 athletes earned a record total of 71 medals, in part due to the new rule that permitted athletes to count all events in track or field as a single event toward the five-event entry limit.

Members who wish to participate with chapter financial support must accumulate 12 or more Health and Recreation Points as listed in each issue of the chapter newsletter, The Parascope. The chapter sets a budget annually for supporting athletes attending the Games; funds are limited.

As new members join, our chapter is getting more involved in sports. Our members participate in track, field, road racing, weightlifting, swimming, trap shooting, air guns, hunting, fishing, hand cycling, bowling, billiards, quad rugby, basketball, scuba diving, power soccer, table tennis, slalom, bocce, and the list keeps growing. Our chapter offers a bowling league, a bass tournament, hunting (including the annual pheasant hunt) and our Kennywood Park picnic.

We have opened up more opportunities by working closer with the disabled groups in our area, such as the Hope Network, the National Rifle Association (NRA) for Air Gun Clinics, and sponsoring a trap shoot competition. This year we worked with the Pittsburgh Steelwheelers and their Quad Rugby Team and participating in several 5K races, not to mention reminding our members of the opportunities at the national level in bass fishing, bowling, billiards, trap shooting and hand cycle 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 supported the Western Pa. Trial Lawyers Association’s 5K race fundraiser for the Steelwheelers, and a quad rugby tournament held at Slippery Rock University. Through this participation we have increased public awareness of paralyzed veterans and acquired associate members and speaking engagements.

Trap Shoot … We held our first trap shoot on the PVA National circuit on the 2013 Labor Day weekend at the Clairton Sportsmen’s Club. The national PVA Shooting Sports personnel and the Club made the event easy for us and a good successful start for continuing annual shoots.

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 hunt here and report enjoyable and productive experiences.

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.

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.

Veterans Art Festival … usually held at the Pittsburgh 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 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. Many of our members participate and enjoy a day of hunting.

National summer and winter sports clinics … are promoted by National PVA and are attended by some of our members.

Members interested in getting involved in and participating in these activities can contact me, the Sports Director, through the office, at any time; I will do my best to help you.
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 PV A 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.

Volunteers

Agnes Strang
Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteer hours for the 12 months ending September 30, 2013 for VA Volunteer Service totaled 5,583. Volunteer non-VAVS National PVA hours donated to service to the chapter totaled 3,929.

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!
Program reports, continued

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 2013, 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. Through many planned visits were postponed by the threat of a massive snowstorm dubbed “Snowmageddon,” the storm did not hit the capital nearly as hard as the surrounding region and our team found most of the members of Congress in their offices. This situation allowed us to spend extra time with the lawmakers and their staff veterans specialists. As usual, we focused on the high points of the Independent Budget, thanked the members for fully funding the Veterans Health Administration and a two-year rolling budget, and strongly recommended that Congress includes unannounced visits to VA facilities as part of its oversight.

Keystone PVA continued to advocate for veterans during fiscal 2013 by getting more involved in external events and meetings held by other organizations. The introduction of the “Five Facts” flyer gave all chapter representatives a tool to succinctly describe the work and impact of PVA and its mission.

Much of the chapter’s advocacy, especially in breaking down accessibility barriers, is done casually and quietly, but frequently. Our members attempt to drive home the broad demographics that benefit from improved accessibility and mobility. We emphasize that these improvements to our civil environment benefit many more than just our own paralyzed vets. We also emphasize that the specifications of the ADA are absolute minimums, and that substantially exceeding those minimums helps many people and costs relatively little.

The chapter’s “site leaders” — members who serve as local leaders and points of contact for the chapter at and around the Altoona, Butler, Erie, Lebanon, and Pittsburgh VA medical centers — are provided with exhibit materials whenever an opportunity to set up a display table at an event arises. These materials are reviewed for appropriateness and effectiveness at all times, but resupply is on hold until this chapter receives implementation guidelines on the new unified logo.

National Service Officer’s Report
Christopher Jenkins, NSO II, National Service Office, Pittsburgh

This past year, The Pittsburgh office of the Paralyzed Veterans of America assisted more than twenty-six new claimants and grossed more than $1,685,576 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

National Service Officer contact information

| NSO Pittsburgh: Christopher Jenkins, NSOII |
| 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 the Philadelphia office for benefits assistance; western Pa. members should contact Mr. Jenkins. |

| For other locations near Pennsylvania: |
| Western New York |
| Michael Kruse, Buffalo, 800-795-3619 |

| NSO Philadelphia: Currently vacant |
| Secretary: Violet Graham |
| 5000 Wissahickon Avenue |
| Philadelphia PA 19144 |
| 800-795-3628 or 215-381-3057 |

| Eastern New York |
| 866-297-1319 |

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

Keystone PVA 2013 Annual Report
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, but a new, five-year copier contract has reduced some cost.

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. In 2013, they tended to edit their photos down to their best, making selection for use easier.

In anticipation of a change in the PVA unified national logo, we changed the masthead of the Parascope from the long-time black-and-gold to red-and-blue with a background of white—totally appropriate for a veterans’ service organization. We also redesigned it, building Speedy into the name “Parascope.” Though it appears that Speedy is out as part of the national image, he looks right at home at the top of our newsletter, and there he will proudly stay.

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 have approximately 900 e-mail addresses on file, though we seldom perform an “e-mail blast.” Instead, we break them down into groups, of which our life members and associate members are the most important. We would ideally like to have all of our members and/or their caregivers available by e-mail because we often get generous donations or opportunities that have a limited shelf life.

Web site, www.kpva.org

In FY2013 biography pages for the Board of Directors were added. This is part of the program to provide as much information as possible—greater “transparency.” It is also intended to give a better idea of who paralyzed veterans are.

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. Recently, due to weather, distance and illness, only half the Board was physically present in the office for the regular monthly meeting, but we still had almost every member of the Board assembled thanks to the PVA conference bridge.

The “Five Facts Flyer”

The chapter produces a four-fold flyer that contains the “Five Facts You Ought to Know About Paralyzed Veterans” that are printed here on pages 3 and 4. This is in response to our experience that the public does not know much about the Paralyzed Veterans organization, and worse, has several misconceptions. We have found that communicating these facts—especially the ones that we are NOT a part of the VA and DO NOT get tax funding—generates important, positive support for our veterans and their needs.

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 2 for a list of our VAVS representatives and page 7 for a list of PVA’s service officers in and around Pennsylvania. Keystone PVA would like capable members to volunteer to be VAVS deputies.
Site Leader and VA Voluntary Service Reports

Chris Fidler
Director; Lebanon VAVS Representative, Leader, and Hospital Liaison Officer

There were several events throughout the year that I attended, but first let me report on the regular events that I do over the course of the year.

As a member of several veteran groups I represent Keystone PVA, including the VAVS Executive Committee, VAVS Representative Committee, PA War Veterans Council, PA State Veterans Committee, and the Lebanon Veterans Advisory Council, of which I am the current president.

Keystone PVA sponsored five bingo games from February to October. I helped VAVS with these and also donated a couple hundred dollars of my own, purchasing food and door prizes. Dates have been scheduled for future bingo games through 2014.

I work three days a week in the Veterans Activity Center, answering the phone and helping veterans with their questions or problems. The VAVS requests my service with other duties, such as stuffing envelopes or assisting in special events throughout the VA. Upon receipt of the Parascope newsletter or PN Magazine I distribute these publications throughout the VA, targeting the SCI Team waiting room and Physical Therapy waiting room.

Over the year, there are a variety of information booths at several events, including at the Lebanon Area Fairgrounds in February, and the Central PA Federal Executives Association at the Keystone Conference Center, Ft. Indiantown Gap, in May. It is important that me and other Keystone members work these tables and distribute the information on our organization. I helped plan and then marched in the Lebanon Memorial Day Parade along with other members of KPVA.

Monthly meetings of the PA War Veterans Council are held, here I have helped to change the law that defines the requirements for receiving the “Paralyzed Veterans Pension”. Currently I am working to have the Council make the meetings wheelchair accessible; with help from the Officers of Keystone PVA, this should be achievable.

I attend the monthly meetings of the PA State Veterans Commission, where I was recently appointed and sworn in as Representative of Keystone PVA. As a member, I attended a “Coffee Social” at the Governor’s Residence in October, along with other members of the Commission.

I am working with the VA Administration and VA Engineering to make sure that the new ‘Therapeutic Pool’ will be fully wheelchair accessible. After over two years of fighting to get the old pool replaced, I have finally been included in future meetings regarding the new construction.

In addition to my volunteer work at the VA, I help Volunteer Services by purchasing tickets to events at the local arena, Giant Center. Just this year I have secured 17 tickets to a Hershey Bears ice hockey game and 17 tickets to a Harlem Globetrotters game.

Part of my duties as a member of the Lebanon Veterans Advisory Council is to help plan the Lebanon Memorial Day Parade. As the current president I will be delivering the Veterans Day speech at Fisher Park in Lebanon on November 11th.

Currently I am working with Human Resources and DAV to try to have them accept the donation from KPVA of the wheelchair accessible van. There are some concerns and questions, but much like the Therapeutic Pool, I will keep pushing the issue until I get wheelchair bound veterans the same transportation opportunities as all other veterans.

Gary M. Orlando, Sr.
Director; Erie VAVS Representative, Site Leader and Hospital Liaison Officer/Chapter HLO Coordinator

A noteworthy change during our Fiscal Year 2013 was the way we elect officers. Among the Board members elected by the membership, new face Bill Lightner not only joined us, but then we elected him the chapter’s corporate secretary! Newly-elected president Jim Riemer made a full slate of committee and other important appointments. George “Murph” Neelan was elected vice president and Bill Jakovac was re-elected treasurer. Congratulations to them and two other re-elected directors, Jerry “Bull” Baylor and Tom Strang.

At the 2013 National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Tampa, I believe we recorded a record number of medals earned, in part because many of us were able to enter more events. It was nice to be back to the area I used to live. Downtown Tampa had changed so much, even I had a hard time finding some of my old hangouts. I will not be attending the 2014 Games. I am finally going to get things fixed on this worn out body. I know our Chapter athletes will do the Chapter proud again.

At the Erie VA Medical Center, we added one new volunteer and even had a youth volunteer give hours of service. I still am actively recruiting new potential volunteers.

Construction is moving along at the Erie VAMC. The grand opening still hasn’t been announced. There were some heating

(Continued on page 12)
Keystone PVA thanks you for your generosity

These people and institutions made direct donations to the Keystone PVA in our fiscal year 2013 (01 October 2012 to 30 September 2013). 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.

We strongly suggest that those who have gently-used home furnishings, clothing and shoes donate them to the American Thrift Center, a second-hand-goods store based in the Village Shopping Center, 1806 Homeville Road, West Mifflin PA 15122. Donations and sales there benefit the Keystone Chapter. For pickup of larger items in Allegheny County, Pa., and parts of surrounding counties, call the American Thrift Center at 412-469-9663. Or place clothing and shoes in one of over 170 red boxes in the Pittsburgh region, two samples of which are pictured at the right. Go to the chapter web site for a complete list of where you can find a donation box near you.

All locations are communities or postal designations in Pennsylvania unless otherwise noted.

UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS
Jack Affolder, Cranberry Township
American Legion Post 159, Mercer
American Legion Post 19, New Brighton
American Legion, George L. Walter Post 106, Sharpsburg
American Legion Post 799, York
Anonymous
Anonymous donors at the Washington County Sports Show
Janette Cassol, McKeesport
Ann Charmely, Pittsburgh
Helen B. Chretien, Oakford
Combined Federal Campaign donors
Heather Cottier
Kellie Cramer, Reynoldsville
Eugene Fedak, East Palestine, Ohio
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
GDR Trust, North Huntingdon
Benjamin F. Grassi, Cornell
Luann Hamilton, Pittsburgh
Patricia Harris
Terresa L. Hohn, Marietta
Jeanne M. Keenan, Castle Shannon
John E. & Karen Kennedy, Bellevue
Keystone Coach Works, Bethel Park
Lakshmi & C. Krishnamoorthy Foundation, Bradenton, Fla.
Richard Lagrotte, North Wales
Maria Luu, Providence, Rhode Island
James & Kathleen Mackenzie, Oxford
Macy’s East
Virginia Mance, Turtle Creek
Anthony R. Manella, Pittsburgh
Richard F. Mazzur, Willow
Moraca Family Fund via The Pittsburgh Foundation, Pgh.
Rosalie M. Murr Charitable Fund, Mt. Lebanon
Norwin Intermediate Womens Club, North Huntingdon
William S. O’Neil, Moon Township
Joseph Pagan, Oradell, New Jersey
William J. Petkanics, West Mifflin
Karl Raszewski, Monroeville
Elle Snyder, Macungie
St. Raphael School, Pittsburgh
Toyota Motor Sales USA Inc., Torrance, California
Joyce E. Vandersloot, York
Veterans Home Association, Mountville
VFW Post 914, West Mifflin
Samuel J. & Susan M. Weber, Kennedy Township
Wade Wilson, McDonald
William Zally, Jr., Port Matilda

DONATIONS for EASTER BAGS
for HOSPITALIZED VETERANS
Frank Amaditz, Pittsburgh
American Legion Post 659, Belle Vernon
American Legion Post 128, Bolivar
American Legion Post 226, Brackenridge
American Legion Post 377, California
American Legion Post 82, Carnegie
American Legion Post 725, Carrick/Brentwood
American Legion Post 222, Clymer
American Legion Post 380, Dravosburg
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 380, Dravosburg
American Legion Post 493, Homer City
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 359, Irwin
American Legion Post 862, McKees Rocks
American Legion Post 481, Midland
American Legion Post 106, Sharpsburg
American Legion Post 114, Vandergrift
American Legion Post 243, West Sunbury
American Legion Post 701, White Oak
Edgar K. & Carol D. Blose, Punxsutawney
Ernest Clark, Wales Center, New York
Highland Grove United Methodist Women, McKeesport
Floyd D. Lutter, McMurray
Virginia Mance, Turtle Creek
Presbyterian Church of Pitcairn, Pitcairn
Teamsters Local 205, White Oak
VFW Guayasuta Post 709, Sharpsburg
VFW Pvt. James Perry Post 191, Canonsburg
VFW Post 2754, West View
William Zally, Jr., Port Matilda

MEMORIAL DONATIONS
In memory of Kenneth Clugston
Doris McKay, Turtle Creek

(Continued on page 12)
In memory of Leo Donahue  
Geraldine & Wayne Wilson, Pittsburgh

In memory of Debbie Huber  
Susan Walker, Grayson, Georgia

In memory of Don Jakovac  
Fred & Peggy Taverner, Silver Spring, Maryland

In memory of Joe Klren  
Allegheny County Sanitary Authority, Pittsburgh  
Frank Steck, Smock

In memory of Jean Eckert Bromell  
Sarah Eckert Brady, Castle Rock, Colorado  
Carol E. Fuchella, Greenwich, Connecticut

In memory of Arthur V. Salemme  
Italian Sons & Daughters #265, Pittsburgh

In memory of Joseph Wnlarst  
Joseph T. Ashdale Family, Philadelphia  
Diane Goscinia, Maple Shade, New Jersey  
Doris & Leon Goscinia, Cherry Hill, New Jersey  
Debbie Hilling, Gettysburg  
Elliott & Assunta Huesken, Stratford, New Jersey  
Gerald Huesken, Lancaster  
S. & T. Huesken, South Jersey, New Jersey  
Louis Laib, Philadelphia

In memory of John Yeckel  
Norma Jean Schweiblin, Pittsburgh

DONATIONS supporting wheelchair athletes participating in the NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES  
American Legion Post 77, Aspinwall  
American Legion Post 287, Milroy  
Debbie & Tom Goral, Pittsburgh  
VFW Post 34, Newport

DONATION supporting the BASS TOURNAMENT  
Assembly of God Church, Valley Grove, West Virginia

**Donation boxes in the Pittsburgh Region**

Most of the donation boxes that benefit the Keystone Paralyzed Veterans are red, and look like one of the two examples shown here. The smaller one at near left is newer and is painted on all sides with the “Speedy” logo and the words “Paralyzed Veterans” to make clear to the public who benefits from their donations. American Thrift Center is registered as a fundraising organization with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and whose sole beneficiary are the Keystone Paralyzed Veterans.

**DONATION supporting the PVA Circuit TRAP SHOOT**  
American Legion Post 159, Mercer

**NON-CASH DONATIONS**  
Lance Alexander, Blairsville  
Gloria Atherholt, Danville

**Site Leader reports** *(cont’d from page 10)*

issues that need to be corrected before it can open. I will be representing our PVA chapter at the grand opening. I still attend all of the quarterly VA Voluntary Service meetings and the Erie Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Team meetings. We are fortunate to have one of the most dedicated SCI coordinators, Sally Ebert, who wears many hats during SCI Clinic days. One problem we continue to have is that there is no SCI nurse, which is required according to VHA Guideline 1176.01. I have not let up on requesting the nurse, using the “VHA” guidelines.

As the HLO coordinator, I have the best site leaders, which makes my job so much easier. I am proud to report that all site leaders/HLOs have passed the HLO test and now, are knowledgable in what an HLO test and now, are knowledgable in what an HLO does. Congratulations to all the site leaders for your dedication and passion to your respectful VAMC.
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

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

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America, Inc. ("Chapter"), which comprise the statements of financial position as of September 30, 2013 and 2012, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management’s Responsibility for the Financial Statements
Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor’s Responsibility
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits 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 from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have provided is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

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, 2013 and 2012, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Sisterson & Co., LLP

January 23, 2014
KEYSTONE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
For the Years Ended September 30, 2013 and 2012

Unrestricted net assets 9/30/2013 9/30/2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unrestricted revenues and support:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National PVA contributions</td>
<td>$ 136,245 $ 174,472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrift Shop Fundraising</td>
<td>54,140 52,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General contributions</td>
<td>24,950 32,927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trap Shoot tournament</td>
<td>12,853  --</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter advertising</td>
<td>1,515 1,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined Federal Campaign</td>
<td>1,058 3,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership dues</td>
<td>535 965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunting and Fishing Tournaments</td>
<td>380 260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-cash property and equipment contribution</td>
<td>--  59,508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from investments</td>
<td>40,743 32,738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net gain (loss) on investments</td>
<td>11,207 63,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>--  --</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total unrestricted revenue and support</strong></td>
<td>283,626 420,481</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unrestricted expenses:

Program services:
Membership and benefits 136,131 123,448
Public affairs 97,466 98,284
Research 16,781 22,803

Support services:
General and Administrative 77,829 82,969
Fundraising 9,711 9,910

**Total unrestricted expenses** 337,918 406,414

Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets (54,292) 83,067

Temporarily restricted net assets
National PVA special grant 5,000  --

Net increase (decrease) in net assets (49,292) 83,067

Net assets, beginning of year 1,558,822 1,475,755

**Net assets at end of year** $1,509,530 $1,558,822
**KEYSTONE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC**

**STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION**
For the Years Ended September 30, 2013 and 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September 30,</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and equivalents</td>
<td>$ 89,417</td>
<td>$ 113,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising and fundraising receivables</td>
<td>11,997</td>
<td>4,967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment receivable</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>59,508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>11,749</td>
<td>9,189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply inventory</td>
<td>1,176</td>
<td>1,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>114,339</strong></td>
<td><strong>188,443</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments at fair value</td>
<td>1,123,404</td>
<td>1,139,986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
<td>297,204</td>
<td>259,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,534,947</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,587,807</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>$ 25,417</td>
<td>$ 28,985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>1,504,530</td>
<td>1,558,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,509,530</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,558,822</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,534,947</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,587,807</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Administration and staff report**

Office management and administration during fiscal year 2013 both initiated and supported an expansion of events for the promotion and fundraising of the chapter, such as the second annual golf outing of American Legion Post 106 in Sharpsburg and the first trap shoot, held at the Clairton Sportsmen’s Club over the Labor Day weekend with the support of the PVA Shooting Sports office.

Revenue also increased from the chapter’s 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.

A major improvement to the budget occurred when a new five-year lease for photocopiers was inked, at a savings estimated to be over $5,000 per year. It was also a rare year in which little money was spent on maintenance of the chapter’s building and parking lot. The chapter expects to make some expensive improvements and renovations in FY 2014 and 2015.

The executive director spent much time on personnel management, legal compliance, and agenda preparation and follow-through. He continued to focus on building the chapter’s civic connections, public profile, and favorable image.

Office Manager Diane Byrnes began her seventh year on staff in 2013; Administrative Assistant Jeanne Keenan has been with the chapter since 2002, and Executive Director Joe Dornbrock was with the chapter for eight and a half years at the end of FY2013.
Officers, Directors and Appointments, FY 2013

President
Frederick J. Tregaskes
Vice President
James E. Riemer
Secretary-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 Coordinator
Gary M. Orlando, Sr.

Membership Officer
Tom Strang

Service Officer
William D. Jakovac

Sports Director
Jerry Baylor

Volunteer Coordinator
Agnes Strang

National Director
James E. Riemer

CONNECT WITH US
The BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Contact information on page 2.
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.

From American Legion Post 106 in Sharpsburg,
to present the proceeds
of their June 2013 golf
outing to President
Fred Tregaskes
(seated) were
(standing, left to right)
Ken Mattheis, Don
Brown, Ron Herstak,
Pat Astorino, and
Post Commander
Mike Haas.

David Parkinson
(center) retired from
Paralyzed Veterans of
America in February
2013 after 25 years
as a national service
officer. He received
recognition from
PVA East-North Area
Manager John
Mullally (right),
with Pittsburgh PVA
Service Office
Secretary Darlene
Mead.