Showing our stuff!

The visibility of our Paralyzed Veterans in service and in the public eye grew in FY2014. From information exhibits (right) to service projects (below), Keystone PVA's people spread the word about the good work our members do and who they do it for. (Photo identification is on the back page.)

This report features the independent auditor's letter on page 13.
The Keystone PVA Board of Directors, 2014

The 2014 Board of Directors included these paralyzed veterans pictured here in the Keystone chapter’s conference room, plus Immediate Past President Fred Tregaskes, who was not present. Clockwise from the left are Treasurer Bill Jakovac, George “Murph” Neelan, Secretary Bill Lightner, Ben Williams, President Jim Riemer, Chris Fidler, Gary Orlando, Tom Strang, and Jerry “Bull” Baylor.

Contact information for the 2015 Board of Directors

To provide for easy communication with members of the Board, the current (FY 2015) 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 724-745-2612

VA Voluntary Service representatives as of 30 September 2014

James E. Van Zandt VAMC, Altoona
William D. Lightner, representative
John Lightner, deputy

Butler VAMC
Jim Riemer, representative

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
As President of Paralyzed Veterans of America, Keystone Chapter, it is my privilege to report to you the progress the chapter has made over the previous year as we advocate for all veterans who have served our country and those that are serving to preserve the freedoms that we have and can enjoy so freely.

You should have seen by now that the chapter logo has changed from Speedy in the wheelchair to the saluting soldier seated in a wheelchair that the national Paralyzed Veterans and all 34 chapters now utilize. All of the chapters now formally identify ourselves as Paralyzed Veterans of America, followed by the chapter name, in our case, Keystone.

Members of the Keystone chapter are dedicated to assisting our fellow members, their families and others with spinal cord injuries or dysfunctions. Research has advanced and continues to advance. Keystone PVA donates money annually to the Human Engineering Research Laboratories, a joint project of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the University of Pittsburgh, which works with wheelchairs and assistive technology. The chapter also supports the work of Yale University spinal cord research. Keystone PVA members assist in various research programs. We also make annual donations to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS, “Lou Gehrig’s Disease”) Association, and the Lupus Foundation. These are the most common spinal cord diseases among veterans.

We continue to advocate for the rights of disabled people and expand opportunities in wheelchair sports and recreation by sponsoring our weekly Bowling League and annual Air Gun Clinic, Wheelchair Games and Bass Tournament. In September of 2014 the chapter hosted our second trap shoot on Labor Day weekend. This year the chapter added a pistol shoot to our trap shoot, both of which we expect to be annual events. The trap shoot is part of the national PVA trap shoot circuit.

The chapter also holds bimonthly Membership Meetings at various locations around Pennsylvania and sponsors an annual picnic with ride-all-day passes at Kennywood Amusement Park near Pittsburgh for members, associate members & volunteers and their families. We continue to seek other activities that will benefit our members and increase member participation in chapter events.

Keystone PVA 2014 Annual Report | Page 3
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 came together to encourage and provide expertise to the Veterans' Administration (now the Department of Veterans Affairs, still known as the "VA") to assist veterans and their dependents. These groups became 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 $72 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). Together, we have the expertise to effectively guide the VA and assist the Congress in appropriating the right funding for veterans’ care.

Though PVA is the smallest of the veterans’ service organizations that write the IB, half of the authors are from PVA. 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 the PVA Hospital Liaison Officer program, in which our own members monitor the health care of our fellow veterans and report 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

(Continued on page 9)
Treasurer’s Report; Fundraising Report

Treasurer’s report
Keystone PVA’s Fiscal Year 2014 financial records and practices were inspected by Pittsburgh-based Sisterson & Company, LLP. The auditor’s opinion letter is located on page 14, followed by statements of activities and financial position. To insure against loss of current financial data, both the chapter president and I routinely back up the financial computer files and keep the backups off the chapter premises.

Fundraising report
We have been involved with the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) in two regions of Pennsylvania: 3 Rivers/Pennsylvania West, which covers primarily southwestern Pa. and parts of West Virginia and Ohio; and the Central Pennsylvania CFC, which covers a portion of the Commonwealth from roughly Altoona to Harrisburg. These campaigns make it easier for federal employees to donate to us.

Successful fundraising and name recognition have gone hand-in-hand, as we expected. Sharpsburg American Legion Post 106 again held a golf outing and donated the proceeds to the chapter. South Fayette High School conducted a T-shirt sale for our benefit, and donated over $1,000 to the chapter from the event. During FY2014 we began to receive donations through the United Way of Allegheny County.

We are again very pleased to recognize many individuals, foundations, and other veterans service organizations who have provided support for the Keystone chapter’s paralyzed veterans; please see the donors report that starts on page 11.

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 the 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 300 by the end of FY2014 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 2014 the Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America 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 to 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 each 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 are treated to a buffet lunch, entertainment, dance contests, and sightseeing on Pittsburgh’s three rivers.

Service report
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 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania), and in private nursing homes.

Soldiers and Sailors Home in Erie (both operated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania), and in private See page 2 for a list of our VAVS representatives and page 8 for a list of PVA’s service officers in and around Pennsylvania. Keystone PVA would like capable members to volunteer to be VAVS deputies.
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.

**Wounded Warriors of Western Pennsylvania** … located in Washington County, sponsors hunts and shoots for disabled hunters. Game includes deer, turkey, pheasant, and coyote. Quite a few of our Keystone PVA members participate in these hunts and shoots.

**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 and present prizes to the highest scorers at the Annual Banquet.

**Keystone PVA and Greene County Team Bass Tournament** … takes place each year on the Monongahela River at the marina of American Legion Post 940 in West Brownsville. Paralyzed veterans and boat captains compete in a day-long competition that concludes with prizes and a picnic.

**Veterans Art Festival** … was held at the Pittsburgh VA Medical Center’s Heinz Campus 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 for members, their families and friends 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.

**National summer and winter sports clinics** … are promoted by National PVA and open to 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 PV A and the Keystone PV A 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 PV A’s membership lists will not be shared outside the PV A.

Keystone PV A 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.

Volunteer hours for the 12 months ending September 30, 2014 for VA Volunteer Service totaled 5,047. Volunteer non-VAVS National PVA hours donated to service to the chapter totaled 4,216.

The Volunteers of Keystone PV A 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!

Members who have passed on to the Eternity Chapter

FY 2013: 01 October 2013 to 30 September 2014

All towns in Pennsylvania except where noted

Stanley Pugh, Aliquippa, 20 May 2013
Elmer Evans, McKees Rocks, 22 July 2013
Roger Detwiler, Souderton, 25 November 2013
John Stolarik, Scranton, 06 February 2014
James Fowler, Pittsburgh, 25 March 2014
Frank Malobicky, Murrysville, 26 March 2014
Gene D. Albright, Hollidaysburg, 20 August 2014
Bill Johnston, Butler
William E. Langston, Hollidaysburg

Keystone PVA 2014 Annual Report Page 7
Program reports, continued

Advocacy Report ................................................. Bill Jakovac

The PVA conducts an Advocacy/Legislative Seminar in March of each year in Arlington, Virginia. In 2014, Keystone PVA sent two people for the intensive, two-day training session, then two more members of the chapter went to Washington to join them in visiting the offices of members of Congress from Pennsylvania. 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 2014 by staying involved in external events and meetings held by other organizations. The chapter continues to “tune” the “Five Facts” flyer that succinctly explains what PVA and the Keystone Chapter do.

The chapter’s “site leaders” — members who serve as local leaders and points of contact for the chapter at and around the

Building Committee Chairman’s Report

Ben Williams

As Building Committee Chairman, I have reported to the Board of Directors the necessary maintenance repairs required on our building.

During Fiscal Year 2014, I continued to visit and monitor our hospital-ized members at the Pittsburgh VA Healthcare System at H. J. Heinz Campus. When available, I passed out canteen coupon books.

This year I staffed our table at the Washington County Sportsmen’s show. In June I participated in our annual Bass Tournament which is an excellent fun day where we are treated like kings. My thanks are extended to the Board of Directors for making these events available to all members of Keystone PVA.

I continue to attend the mandatory VA Voluntary Service Program.

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. Those materials were updated with the new “Saluting Man” national/chapter logo, now used by the entire Paralyzed Veterans organization.

Much of the chapter’s advocacy, especially in breaking down accessibility barriers, is done casually and quietly. 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 that 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.

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 21 new claimants and grossed more than $1,134,876 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, NSO II
Secretary: Darlene Mead
1000 Liberty Avenue, Room 1602
Pittsburgh PA 15222
800-795-3629 or 412-395-6255

Eastern New York
866-297-1319

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:

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

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

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

Feel free to contact us at your convenience: 412-395-6255.
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 two new copiers obtained on a lease in 2013 have reduced some cost.

The chapter accepts some unsolicited photos, but due to quality or appropriateness issues, not all find their ways into publication.

The “Saluting Man” logo was adopted for use by all parts of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, including the chapters. Solid guidelines insure that a unified image is included on all publications and promotions. Changing the letterhead was easy. More difficult was getting chapter apparel suitably modified. There was no problem with the quality of the image or our supplier; instead, we decided to offer more choice of styles, colors, and options for applying logos and personal names, and that led to some complexity. But about two dozen of our more active members now proudly wear jackets and shirts in red, white and blue, promoting the image of the Paralyzed Veterans and this chapter.

E-mail, keystonepva@comcast.net
Web site, www.kpva.org

Getting reliable e-mail and Internet service proved difficult in FY2014. We were able to get by, but improving both will be a priority in 2015. During FY2014, several companies and institutions contacted the chapter to make a donation, and they found us while they were searching for a suitable veterans’ service organization on the Internet.

Teleconferencing
The chapter continued to use teleconference phones to link Membership Meeting sites together for nearly an hour each meeting. Our members in the Lebanon, Pa. area have been regular participants, and in FY2014, our members in the Erie area frequently joined the other sites for the meetings. We used the PVA conference bridge routinely to let Board members, some of whom live up to 250 miles from the chapter office, to join the monthly Board meetings—a very valuable service during the winter months.

The “Five Facts Flyer”
The chapter produces a flyer that contains the “Five Facts You Ought to Know About Paralyzed Veterans” that are printed here and start on page 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.

FIVE FACTS (continued from page 4)

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 2014.

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.
In October I represented Keystone PVA at both the Pa. War Veterans Council and Pa. State Veterans Commission. I have been working with PVA’s Architecture Department to help the War Veterans Council meetings become Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant by installing an elevator at the American Legion State Headquarters in Wormleysburg.

In November I attended a two day seminar – “Pa. Veterans Forum: Community and Connections” at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Harrisburg, Pa. I represented Keystone PVA as guest speaker at the Veterans Day ceremony at Fisher Veterans Park in Lebanon.

In December I traveled to Pittsburgh to attend a dedication of the World War II Memorial between Heinz Field and PNC Park. I attended the “Wreaths Across America” ceremony at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery where KPVA donated 10 wreaths for the cemetery.

Between March 9 and March 14 I attended the Advocacy/Legislation Seminar in Washington, D.C., and I met with members of Congress and their staff people regarding issues relating to PVA issues.

In April I traveled to the State Capitol Rotunda to give a speech at a press conference supporting legislation to expand the Veterans Property Tax Exemption.

In June I attended the Pa. State Veterans Commission meeting at Ft. Indiantown Gap and delivered a letter from Keystone PVA to the Commission that was sent to then-Pa. Governor Corbett regarding the VA problems in delivering services to veterans. I attended a meeting with Governor Corbett with members of the Pa. State Veterans Commission and press conference afterwards at the Williamsport American Legion. I drove to Cheltenham High School in Wyndote, Pa. to deliver the PVA Essay Contest Award to the student who won.

In addition, I represented Keystone PVA at the regular meetings of the Pa. War Veterans Council, the Pa. State Veterans Commission, the VA Volunteer Services Executive Committee and VAVS Representatives meetings, and the Lebanon Veterans Advisory Council.

In addition, I represented Keystone PVA at the regular meetings of the Pa. War Veterans Council, the Pa. State Veterans Commission, the VA Volunteer Services Executive Committee and VAVS Representatives meetings, and the Lebanon Veterans Advisory Council.

At the Erie VA Medical Center, the major developments are the ongoing construction and the recent start of the new hospital director, David Cord. He comes to us from the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (VAPHS). We also recently lost our chief of staff. Dr. Anthony Behm left to pursue his work as a physician. The chief of staff role is being covered by a rotation of physicians until that position is awarded. The Keystone chapter will be kept up to date on who becomes the new chief of staff as soon as it is announced. I have already had a good talk with our new director and will be having a one on one visit with Mr. Cord in the next few weeks to bring him up to date on the Erie VAMC Spinal Cord Injury Team. I can see that progress will be made for the SCI Team and the hospital as a whole.

The Keystone PVA volunteers are doing a fantastic job. In the past fiscal year, we put in many more hours helping the in-patients and out-patients. The Keystone Chapter is well known by the patients and staff at the Erie VAMC in a positive manner.

As the HLO coordinator, I may be biased, but I feel that most of our HLOs are doing fantastic jobs. But we all need to take our VHA guidelines manuals with us when making visits to each VAMC for reference, if needed. You would be surprised how many VA staff and leaders do not know their own regulations. When I point something out to the staff, I do get positive feedback and, sometimes a “thank you.” I feel that the HLO program is the most important program the PVA has. A big “thank you” to our HLOs for being dedicated to our fellow veterans. It is the work of the other HLOs who make me and the Chapter put out the best monthly HLO reports to National PVA.

I do believe that the chapter has to boost our presence in the largest medical facility among all that we monitor, the University Drive campus of the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. This is the hospital that all of our MS and ALS patients go for care and I feel that we need to be present more often there. We must remember that “U Drive” has had major problems that made negative national news this past year.
Keystone PVA thanks you for your generosity

These people and institutions made direct donations to the Keystone PVA in our fiscal year 2014 (01 October 2013 to 30 September 2014). 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 nearly 300 red boxes in the Pittsburgh region, two samples of which are pictured on the next page.

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

UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS
Jack Affolder, Cranberry Township
American Legion Post 226, Brackenridge
American Legion Post 351, Homewood
Anonymous, Cincinnati, Ohio
Anonymous, Charlotte, North Carolina
Ken Baumgartner, Monongahela
Edgar & Carol Blose, Punxsutawney
Diane Byrnes, Pittsburgh
Ann Charmely, Pittsburgh
Citizens Charitable Foundation Matching Gifts Program
JoAnn Cooney, Ridgewood, New York
Combined Federal Campaign donors of the Capitol Region
Combined Federal Campaign donors of the 3 Rivers/ Pennsylvania West Campaign
Kellie Cramer, Reynoldsdale
Christine Errin, King of Prussia
Norma & Rona Ferguson, Kittanning
Katherine M. Flood, M.D., Renfrew
Rick Frazier, Rochester Hills, Michigan
Thomas J. Friel Estate, (Patricia Toner, Executor), Media
GDR Charitable Trust, Cincinnati, Ohio, via Fidelity Charitable
Gail & George Goldberg, Warminster
Thomas & Debbie Goral, Pittsburgh
Thomas Goral, Pittsburgh
Gott Family Foundation via The Pittsburgh Foundation
Benjamin F. Grassi, Cornwall
Dale K. Groves, DuBois
LuAnn Hamilton, Pittsburgh
Jon Hawk, Pittsburgh
Patricia Harris
Terrisa L. Hohn, Marietta
John E. & Karen Kennedy, Bellevue
Tom Landish, Monongahela
Macy’s East
Virginia Mance, Turtle Creek
Donald D. Mateer Foundation, Charlotte M. Stephenson, Pittsburgh
Rosalie M. Murrer Charitable Fund, Pittsburgh, via Fidelity Charitable
PNC Institutional Investments via R. Douglas DeNardo of Rothman Gordon, Pittsburgh
Kenneth Ochs, Lucinda
William J. Petkanics, West Mifflin
Pittsburgh Gives via the Pittsburgh Foundation
Madeleine M. & Leroy Pryor, Glenshaw
Roxanne Romah-Picard, Pittsburgh
St. Paul’s Methodist Church, Allison Park
Janice Shaffer, New Castle
South Fayette Township School District, McDonald
Scott & Beth Tkach, Pittsburgh
J. M. Trainor, Pittsburgh
VFW Post 3945, Morningside, Pittsburgh
Samuel J. & Susan M. Weber, Kennedy Township

DONATIONS for EASTER BAGS for HOSPITALIZED VETERANS
Frank Amaditz, Pittsburgh
American Legion Post 77, Aspinwall
American Legion Post 659, Belle Vernon
American Legion Post 226, Brackenridge
American Legion Post 935, Brentwood
American Legion Post 940, Brownsville
American Legion Post 377, California
American Legion Post 82, Carnegie
American Legion Post 365, Corry
American Legion Post 278, Fairchance
American Legion Post 852, Harrisville
American Legion Post 493, Homer City
American Legion Post 902, Houston
American Legion Post 267, Ligonier
American Legion Post 472, Manor
American Legion Post 159, Mercer
American Legion Post 19, New Brighton
American Legion Post 663, Schenley, Oakland, Pittsburgh
American Legion Post 106, Sharpsburg
American Legion Post 106 Home Association, Sharpsburg
American Legion Post 331, Trafford
American Legion Post 114, Vandergrift

(Continued on page 12)
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 boxes in the Pittsburgh Region

In memory of Barbara Lee Schifman Samet
Jeanne Keenan, Pittsburgh

In memory of William Siebert
Angela Kaiser, Pittsburgh

In memory of Thomas Szmed
Ken & Beth Mattheis, Pittsburgh

In memory of Robert Tedesco
Michael Santoro, Greensburg

In memory of Joseph Winiarlki
Louis J. Laib, Philadelphia

In memory of Norman P. Wood
Carl & Nancy Schrock, Pittsburgh
Nancy Oyler, Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh
William & Margaret Samples, Pittsburgh
Elizabeth Ostorowski, Baltimore

DONATIONS supporting wheelchair athletes participating
In the NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES
Karen Switzer, Lebanon
American Legion Post 432, Wheatland

NON-CASH DONATIONS
Gloria Atherholt, Danville
Mobility Works, Wall
Tom & Debbie Goral, Pittsburgh

American Legion Post 243, West Sunbury
American Legion Post 432, Wheatland
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 902, Canonsburg
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 380, Dravosburg
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 359, Irwin
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 556, Six Mile Run
Ernest Clark, Wales Center, New York
Virginia Mance, Turtle Creek
Presbyterian Church of Pitcairn, Pitcairn
Lois Schenker, Allison Park
VFW Pvt. James Perry Post 191, Canonsburg
VFW Post 3945, Morningside

MEMORIAL DONATIONS
In memory of Sonya Bond
Order of the Eastern Star, Glen Chapter 425, Halifax

In memory of Tryoan E. Bresett
Debbie Campbell & the Swartz Family, Zanesville, Ohio
David Szczulewski, Pataskala, Ohio

In memory of Catherine (Kitty) Fetscher
Nancy E. Doolin, Pittsburgh

In memory of Larry Howard
Tom Landish, Monongahela

In memory of Joseph Luke
Tom Landish, Monongahela

In memory of LTjg Brandon McCombie
William Zally, Port Mathilda

In memory of R. Palaschak
Robert Chatios D.M.D. and Associates
John & Georgiana Hanley, Pittsburgh

In memory of Melvin P. Riemer
Agr International, Butler
Jim & Adella Barr, Mars

F. Leighton Fennell, Cabot
Carol S. Hartzell, Butler
Jeffrey & Jenny Hartzell, Butler
Judy D. Herman, Butler
Jeanne Keenan, Pittsburgh
Harold Riemer, Cabot
Maxine Riemer, Cabot
Ethel Selliman, Sarver

In memory of Billie Jean Crockett
Barbara Crockett, Pittsburgh

In memory of Joanne S. Zera
Michael Santoro, Greensburg

In memory of Mary Harriman
Ken & Beth Mattheis, Pittsburgh

In memory of Robert Tedesco
Michael Santoro, Greensburg

In memory of Joseph Wilenski
Louis J. Laib, Philadelphia

In memory of Norman P. Wood
Carl & Nancy Schrock, Pittsburgh
Nancy Oyler, Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh
William & Margaret Samples, Pittsburgh
Elizabeth Ostorowski, Baltimore

DONATIONS supporting wheelchair athletes participating
In the NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES
Karen Switzer, Lebanon
American Legion Post 432, Wheatland

NON-CASH DONATIONS
Gloria Atherholt, Danville
Mobility Works, Wall
Tom & Debbie Goral, Pittsburgh
Independent Auditor’s Report and Financial Statements

The Keystone Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (Keystone PVA) engaged Sisterson & Company, LLP, CPAs to perform its Fiscal Years 2013 and 2014 audit. The following opinion letter, Statement of Activities, and Statement of Financial Position are the highlights of the results of the FY 2014 audit. To see the complete audit, including supporting notes, contact Keystone PVA.

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

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

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America, Inc. (“Chapter”), which comprise the statements of financial position as of September 30, 2014 and 2013, 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, 2014 and 2013, 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 22, 2015
KEYSTONE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC  
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES  
For the Years Ended September 30, 2014 and 2013

Unrestricted net assets  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>9/30/2014</th>
<th>9/30/2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted revenues and support:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National PVA contributions</td>
<td>$ 155,000</td>
<td>$ 136,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrift Shop Fundraising</td>
<td>63,030</td>
<td>54,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General contributions</td>
<td>40,296</td>
<td>24,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trap Shoot tournament</td>
<td>8,595</td>
<td>12,853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter advertising</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>1,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined Federal Campaign</td>
<td>2,698</td>
<td>1,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership dues</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunting and Fishing Tournaments</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-cash property and equipment contribution</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from investments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and dividends</td>
<td>32,995</td>
<td>40,743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net gain (loss) on investments</td>
<td>35,667</td>
<td>11,207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total unrestricted revenue and support</td>
<td>345,529</td>
<td>283,626</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unrestricted expenses:  

Program services:  
Membership and benefits  
Public affairs  
Research  
Support services:  
General and Administrative  
Fundraising  
Total unrestricted expenses  

Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>9/30/2014</th>
<th>9/30/2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5,457</td>
<td>(54,292)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Temporarily restricted net assets  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>9/30/2014</th>
<th>9/30/2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National PVA special grant</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>(5,000)</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net increase (decrease) in net assets  

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>457</td>
<td>(49,292)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net assets, beginning of year  

|                      | 1,509,530 | 1,558,822 |

Net assets at end of year  

|                      | $ 1,509,987 | $ 1,509,530 |
KEYSTONE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
For the Years Ended September 30, 2014 and 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>September 30,</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2013</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>$ 127,417</td>
<td>$ 89,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising and fundraising receivables</td>
<td>13,773</td>
<td>11,997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>7,310</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>150,058</td>
<td>114,339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments at fair value</td>
<td>1,105,878</td>
<td>1,123,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
<td>273,809</td>
<td>297,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>$ 1,529,745</td>
<td>$ 1,534,947</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS** |       |       |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | $ 19,758 | $ 25,417 |
| **Net assets**                   |        |       |
| Unrestricted                      | 1,509,987 | 1,504,530 |
| Temporarily restricted            | --     | 5,000  |
| **Total net assets**             | $ 1,509,987 | $ 1,509,530 |
| **Total liabilities and net assets** | $ 1,529,745 | $ 1,534,947 |

Administration and staff report

The major concerns of office management and administration during fiscal year 2014 was to adapt the chapter’s communications and promotional tools to the new “Saluting Man” logo that now identifies both the national PV A and its 34 chapters, and to continue to promote the work of PV A and the Keystone chapter in Pennsylvania.

Of course, the staff also has to maintain the chapter’s building in Sharpsburg, Pa., support Board, Membership, and other meetings, support events, maintain records and generate and/or edit reports ranging from the Hospital Liaison reports to the documentation demanded by various levels of government. Working with the chapter’s volunteer leadership, the professional staff takes pride in accuracy, completeness, and transparency of all reports.

By the end of FY2014, Jeanne Keenan began to phase out of her 13-year role as the chapter’s administrative assistant. Her background as a military spouse and an office manager for Rockwell International when it was headquartered in Pittsburgh made her very well suited to work for the Paralyzed Veterans. She has left a mark of diligence, professionalism, and civility on the chapter that continues to serve our veterans well as we follow her example and build on it.

The executive director spent much time building the chapter’s civic connections, public profile, and favorable image, which was reflected in the increasing number of unsolicited offers to donate money to the chapter from individuals, corporations and other institutions.

Office Manager Diane Byrnes began her eighth year on staff in 2014, and Executive Director Joe Dornbrock was with the chapter for nine and a half years at the end of FY2014.
Officers, Directors and Appointments, FY 2014
See page 2 for contact information

President
James E. Riemer
Vice President
George M. “Murph” Neelan
Secretary
William D. Lightner
Treasurer
William D. Jakovac
Immediate Past President
Frederick J. Tregaskes
Directors
Jerry “Bull” Baylor
Chris Fidler
Gary M. Orlando, Sr.
Tom Strang
Ben Williams

Advocacy Director
William D. Jakovac
Legislative Director
Chris Fidler
Hospital Liaison Coordinator
Gary M. Orlando, Sr.
Membership Officer
Tom Strang
Service Officer
Frederick J. Tregaskes
Sports Director
Jerry Baylor
Volunteer Coordinator
Agnes Strang

National Director
William D. Jakovac

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.

On the front page:
Top photo, left-to-right: Chris Fidler, Bob Wood, and Ken Walters staffed an exhibit at the Defense Logistics Agency in New Cumberland, Pa. on behalf of the Keystone Paralyzed Veterans as part of the Central Pa. Combined Federal Campaign, in which charities reach out to federal employees.
Bottom photo: Getting ready to deliver the Easter Bags at the Heinz Campus of the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System are (front row, left-to-right) Army veteran Robert Carlisle, Navy veteran Robert Cincirpini, and Navy Veteran Tom Strang. In the back row are Taylor Strang, Lavender Woolstrum, Agnes Strang, and Leona Cincirpini.

Photo credits: Chris Fidler, page 1, top photo; William George, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, page 1, bottom photo; Agnes Strang, page 6.
All other editorial photos by Keystone PVA staff.

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.