



# Paralyzed Veterans of America

## Keystone Chapter

# Annual Report

# 2015

This report features the independent auditor's letter on page 13.



The mission of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) revolves around health, primarily, insuring that our veterans--all of them--get the best health care possible. That health care is reinforced by providing and supporting a wide variety of opportunities to get out and get moving. At left, paralyzed veterans race on the track at the 35th annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Dallas, Texas.

*We're on a roll!*



PVA conducts a trap shoot circuit at 12 locations across the country, one of which is co-hosted by the Keystone chapter of the PVA at the Clairton Sportsmen's Club, just south of Pittsburgh. Ambulatory and wheelchair-using shooters are equally welcome.

Paralyzed Veterans from the Keystone Chapter get out on the water for the 12th annual Team Bass Tournament every June, in 2015 for the 12th year. It is co-organized with the BassMasters of Greene County and held at the marina of the American Legion Post 940 in West Brownsville, Pa., on the Monongahela



# The Keystone PVA Board of Directors, 2015



The **2015 Board of Directors** included these paralyzed veterans pictured here in the Keystone chapter's conference room. 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**. Immediate Past President **Fred Tregaskes** passed away in March 2015 (see page 7).

## Contact information for the 2016 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

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

Mark O. Rosensteel  
105 Spring Drive  
Apollo PA 15613-9720  
phone 724-478-4805

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 2015

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

**Butler VAMC**  
Jim Riemer, representative

**Erie VAMC**  
John Larese, representative  
Rexford Nichols, deputy

**Lebanon VAMC**  
Chris Fidler, representative  
Ken Walters, deputy

### VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

*H. John Heinz III Campus*  
Tom Strang, representative  
Jerry Baylor, deputy  
*University Drive Campus*  
Ben Williams, deputy

# President's Report . . . . . Jim Riemer

As President of the Keystone Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, 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.

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 & Annual Air Gun Clinic, Team Bass Tournament, Trap & Pistol Shoot, and send-

ing our athletes to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.

The chapter 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.

The chapter's members volunteer at five VA medical centers in Altoona, Butler, Erie, Lebanon and Pittsburgh. They do so as part of the VA's Voluntary Service (VAVS) program, and as Hospital Liaison Officers (HLOs) for PVA and this chapter. Volunteers work in various capacities at the VA medical centers including assisting in clinics, visiting patients and sponsoring activities. The chapter donates funds for patient activities and to patients directly so they can obtain small, sometimes necessary items during their stays. HLOs monitor patient care for any issues or concerns which need to be addressed.

Our work is quiet, but pound-for-pound, no organization has as much impact on improving veterans' health care as the Paralyzed Veterans of America, and we are proud that our own chapter's veterans are such an important part of PVA's work.



Keystone Chapter President **Jim Riemer** (left) with national Paralyzed Veterans of America President **Al Kovach Jr.** during a PVA visit to the Human Engineering Research Laboratories at Bakery Square in Pittsburgh in May 2015.

# FIVE FACTS you ought to know about Paralyzed Veterans

## Fact One:

### Paralyzed veterans help themselves.

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 \$75 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.



Arriving at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., to meet with members of Congress about veterans' issues (l.-r.): **Bill Lightner, Chris Fidler, Bill Jakovac, and Joe Dornbrock.**

**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): half of the IB's authors are from PVA. 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 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.

# Treasurer's Report; Fundraising Report . . . . . Bill Jakovac



## 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.

I am responsible for the funds of the chapter. QuickBooks 2014 is used to keep track of these funds.

Invoices are reviewed and initialed by the executive director for payment. Deposit slips for checks are prepared by the office manager and checked by me prior to deposit at the bank. If the checks are donations, thank-you letters acknowledge them. Checks are always deposited in our banking money market. As needed, the funds are transferred to our checking account.

The office manager enters the information in QuickBooks and prepares the checks. At the beginning of each month, I reconcile the bank statements. The executive director reviews the statements and insures that every check issued is accounted for.

The chapter president and I go to the office weekly to ensure that finances are up to date. Even though the chapter officers and the executive director can sign the checks, my signature is always on the first line. If the treasurer's computer crashes, both the president and I have the information backed up on our home computers plus our flash drives.

Investments include certificates of deposit, money market funds, and equities. Most of our equity investments are managed by Hefren-Tillotson with a reasonably conservative approach. Our account managers meet with our Board of Directors every other year.

## Fundraising report

We have been involved with the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) since 2012. The CFC is the only approved method for asking federal employees for support of charities. The CFC program has reduced its number of regions and those in which an organization can participate. Keystone PVA is now within the 3 Rivers/Pennsylvania West CFC, which covers primarily southwestern and central Pa. and parts of West Virginia and Ohio. We appreciate the generous support of federal employees, which include employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Successful fundraising and name recognition have gone hand-in-hand, as we expected. South Fayette High School conducted a T-shirt sale for our benefit for the second year, and donated over \$1,000 to the chapter from the event. FY2015 was also the third year of receiving 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 continued to increase the number of its collection boxes located in high visibility areas in southwestern Pennsylvania, now well beyond only Allegheny County. The chapter name and/or the national/chapter logo appears on all four sides of the boxes. 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. We were pleased to recognize American Thrift Center owner and manager Jim Zeik as a "Friend of Keystone PVA" during the annual banquet that kicked off FY2015.

**In FY 2015 the Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America received no funding from local, state, or federal governments.**

Charities are criticized for spending money on fundraising. The fact is, fundraising is expensive. To reach potential 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 "no or few funds were spent for fundraising." Except in rare cases where few very large sums of money from few sources are committed to a project or a cause, a lot of 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.

Keystone PVA is one of 17 organizations of the Sharing & Caring Committee; I represent the chapter on it. Sharing & Caring 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.

In other activities, I often staff an exhibit table at outreach events, and I help present awards at schools to winners and finalists of the PVA Poster and Essay Contest and recognize their teachers.

## National PVA Board of Directors

I represent Keystone PVA on the national PVA Board of Directors. The national Board meets in person twice a year and once a year by conference phone.

# 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, President; Tom Strang,

Associate Sports Director, and me. This system continues 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 (held in Dallas, Texas in 2015) and the Buckeye Games held at the Spire Institute in Geneva, Ohio.

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 an annual budget to support 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, 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 its Quad Rugby Team and participated in several 5K races. We also reminded our members of the opportunities at the national level in bass fishing, bowling, billiards, trap shooting and hand cycle racing.

**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 third trap shoot on the PVA National circuit on the 2015 Labor Day weekend at the Clairton Sportsmen's Club, and included a pistol shoot for the second year. The national PVA Shooting Sports personnel and the Club made the event easy for us and a welcome addition to our recreation programs.

**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.

**Wounded Warriors of Western Pennsylvania** ... located in Washington County, this local (not a national) organization 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

*(Continued on page 8)*



The Steelwheelers Quad Rugby team at the Steel City Slam Quad Rugby tournament in November 2014 at Slippery Rock University in Slippery Rock, Pa. **Bull Baylor**, is seated third from the right.

## Program reports, continued



### Membership . . . . . Tom Strang, Membership Officer

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

charge.

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

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

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

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



### Past President Fred Tregaskes

Among the passing of members in 2015 was Frederick J. Tregaskes, who in his many years with the Keystone Chapter, was usually an officer, usually president or vice president. Fred was a career soldier with over 24 years of service, some of which was in the Dominican Republic and in Vietnam during the war, where he sustained his paralyzing injury in 1967. He received eight Purple Hearts, two Distinguished Service Crosses, the Silver Star, and Bronze Star, among others. His service is recognized in the Soldiers and Sailors Hall and Military Museum's Hall of Valor in Pittsburgh. Besides the Paralyzed Veterans of America and the State Veterans Commission, his memberships included the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, the 82nd Airborne Division Association, and the 101st Airborne Division Association, among others. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Arlene, who most of us know as Frieda. He is also survived by his daughters Mary Barbara, Deanna, Hannah, Kimberly and Patricia, and sons Frederick Jr. and Jonathan. Also surviving are his sister Shirley and brother William.

<b>Membership as of 30 September 2015</b>	
Life members, service connected	147
Life members, non-service connected	<u>141</u>
Total life members:	288
Associate members, annual	18
Associate members, lifetime	<u>67</u>
Total associate members:	85
<b>TOTAL CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP:</b>	<b>373</b>

### Members who have passed on to the Eternity Chapter

#### **FY 2015 : 01 October 2014 to 30 September 2015**

*All towns in Pennsylvania except where noted*

- Thomas M. Gahan, Malverne, N.Y., 05 October 2014
- William L. Hollen, Coalport, 03 November 2014
- Charles L. Beswick, Sewickley, 02 January 2015
- Charles E. Lockhart, Canonsburg, 18 January 2015
- Luca Brigida, Yorktown Heights, N.Y., 16 February 2015
- Frederick J. Tregaskes, Templeton, 09 March 2015
- Henry L. Wooding, Pittsburgh, 10 March 2015
- Shane A. Plank, Altoona, 05 April 2015
- Frank P. Lechnar, Uniontown, 23 July 2015
- Thomas M. Fleming, Lancaster, 23 July 2015
- Paul J. Herman, Carnegie, 08 September 2015

*The following passings prior to FY2015 were reported during last year:*

- John V. Gonella, Clarksburg, N.J., 06 February 2014
- John J. Danner, Cabot, 30 June 2014
- Emil J. Branas, Portage, 09 September 2014
- Robert A. Thomas, Greenville, 24 February 2013

# Program reports, continued

## Advocacy Report . . . . . Bill Jakovac

The PVA conducts an Advocacy/Legislative Seminar in March of each year in Arlington, Virginia. In 2015, 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 again strongly recommended that Congress includes unannounced visits to VA facilities as part of its oversight.

Keystone PVA continued to advocate for veterans during fiscal 2015 by staying involved in external events and meetings held by other organizations. As the Department of Veterans Affairs improved its outreach through its medical centers in our region, Keystone PVA made an extra effort to attend and engage at town hall meetings and roundtables for veterans organizations with the medical center directors.

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



### Building Report Ben Williams, Building Committee Chairman

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

The Keystone PVA building seems to be in good shape except for some minor problems with the side entrance door and the bathroom door, the push plate does not work.

Routine maintenance includes clearing the parking lot of snow in the winter and debris the rest of the year; trimming the bushes and pulling the inevitable weeds that pop up around them; having our furnaces checked prior to the winter and the air conditioners checked in the spring; paying an office cleaner to do janitorial work once every two weeks; keeping the thermostats in fresh batteries and properly set so as to not use too much electricity and natural gas; having the carpets cleaned annually; and keeping the kitchenette and associated appliances clean. The office recycles metal cans, plastics, paper and cardboard, minimizing the amount of refuse that requires disposal, and despite the lack of a municipal recycling service. Changing burned out light bulbs and automated bathroom fixture batteries, purchasing consumable supplies, maintaining the interior ethernet network are other tasks performed by the staff. Our employees keep the offices bright, clean, functional, and with plenty of room for wheelchair users to move around.

During the year, we replaced aging and cracked windows with the help of a grant through the Pittsburgh Foundation. We put off repaving the parking lot due to its considerable expense, and we anticipate replacing the roof over the rear "storage shed" part of the building in 2016.

provided with exhibit materials whenever an opportunity to set up a display table at an event arises. During fiscal year 2015, site leaders and other chapter representatives set up and staffed exhibits at 15 different locations around Pennsylvania, distributing thousands of promotional items and copies of literature to inform the public of the work of the Paralyzed Veterans and the Keystone chapter.

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 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.

## National Service Office Report

Darlene Mead, Senior Secretary,  
National Service Office, Pittsburgh

The Pittsburgh office of the Paralyzed Veterans of America assisted more than 25 new claimants and grossed more than \$1,145,516 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

## Sports & Recreation *(Cont'd from page 6)*

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 this year 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.

# Program reports, continued

## Communications

Overseen by the Board of Directors

### The Parascope

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

Producing The Parascope is a time-consuming part of the work of the chapter, from the reports written by officers and directors to the staff time spent editing and fitting all information onto pages in increments of four. The process is made easier by contributors who submit their information in electronic form. It is also expensive to produce, 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](mailto:keystonepva@comcast.net)

### Web site, [www.kpva.org](http://www.kpva.org)

Our use of e-mail improved in FY2015. We passed along many messages, from VA health care notices to recreation opportunities to members who had and used e-mail.

During FY2015, we began a revision of the design and content of our web site that was due to be complete in early calendar year 2016.

### 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. and Erie, Pa. areas were regular participants. We continued to use the PVA conference bridge routinely to let Board members, some of whom live up to 250 miles from the chapter office, join the monthly Board meetings, making it possible to often have 100% attendance.

### 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 on page 4. Our experience is 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. Even more importantly, we communicate that paralyzed veterans **themselves** do so much of the work of the organization. This fact is a hidden gem that needs to be more assertively promoted.



## Volunteers

**Agnes Strang**  
**Volunteer Coordinator**

Volunteer hours for the 12 month period ending September 30, 2015 for VA Volunteer Service (VAVS) totaled 5,658. Volunteer non-VAVS National PVA hours donated to service to the chapter totaled 3,809.

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!**

# Site Leader and VA Voluntary Service reports



## Chris Fidler

**Director; Lebanon VAVS Representative, Site Leader, and Hospital Liaison Officer**

The Keystone chapter is one of the few veterans service organizations in Pennsylvania not based in central Pennsylvania. Thus, the chapter has seen fit to appoint me to represent it on the Pa. State Veterans Commission, which meets every other month not too far from my residence, and on whose Veterans Trust Fund committee I sit.

I also represent the chapter on the Pa. War Veterans Council. This is my third year as Keystone PVA's representative and due to the non-compliance of the building with the Americans with Disabilities Act, I continue to be forced to sit alone in a room downstairs, watching the meeting upstairs on a TV monitor. These meetings set the legislative direction for many veterans' related issues including the Paralyzed Veterans Pension. I have previously reported on this situation, in both this report and to the PVA National office.

As part of my membership in the Lebanon Veterans Advisory Council representing Keystone PVA, I was re-elected president of the council. I was the chairman of the Veterans Day ceremony held at Fisher Veterans Park in Lebanon, Pa., and was master of ceremonies for the event. I acted as parade chairman and master of ceremonies for the annual Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony. The parade is one mile long through Lebanon, ending with wreath-laying ceremonies in two locations.

I serve on the Lebanon VA Volunteer Services Executive Committee and as the Lebanon VA Voluntary Service representative. I also volunteer at the Lebanon VAMC three times a week at the Veterans Activity Center, assisting the recreation therapy staff and volunteer services staff.

Often with other Keystone PVA members, I staffed an information table at these events:

- ☞ "Retiree Appreciation Days" held at the Carlisle Army Barracks in Carlisle, Pa.
- ☞ Combined Federal Campaign Fair at the Defense Logistics Agency Installation at the New Cumberland Army Depot.
- ☞ "Open House" weekend event at Total Mobility Services in Harrisburg, Pa.
- ☞ "Veterans Day at the Capitol" event in Harrisburg, which was sponsored by the State Veterans Commission.

Participated in the PVA Training/Advocacy Seminar in Arlington, Va., and met with members of Congress and their staffs to discuss and promote issues important to paralyzed and all veterans.

Participated in a Paralyzed Veterans of America site visit at the

Lebanon VA medical center, which included meeting with the Spinal Cord Injury/Disease team, touring the facility and discussing concerns veterans face as SCI/D patients.

Received PVA Hospital Liaison Officer training with four other chapter HLOs at a two-day seminar in Dallas, Texas.

As part of a tour of the new Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program Center (MHRRTPC) at the Lebanon VAMC, I made recommendations regarding ADA compliance, which were adopted.

Attended a "Stand Down" event at the Lebanon VAMC's MHRRTPC facility. Later that day I attended a committee meeting of the Therapeutic Pool Renovation Project at the Lebanon VAMC. I've been working with the VA to advance this project for three years now.

Assisted the Lebanon VAMC recreation therapy staff by arranging for the use of the indoor range at the Palmyra Sportsmen's Association, and worked as a range officer for the practices.

Arranged for and attended our annual Christmas Lunch for Keystone PVA members and VA guests. We also collect donated gifts from the members to give to the inpatients at the Lebanon VAMC.

Arranged for VAMC patients to attend three Hershey Bears hockey games, in cooperation with the VFW Ladies Auxiliary and VA Volunteer Services; provided food and transportation. Attended the annual "Wreaths Across America" program at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, for which Keystone PVA annually donates 10 wreaths.

Attended a ceremony to formally recognize the name change of the "Department of Public Welfare" to the "Department of Human Services" at the state Capitol.



## Gary M. Orlando, Sr.

**Director; Erie VAVS Representative, Site Leader and Hospital Liaison Officer/Chapter HLO Coordinator**

Editor's note: Gary passed away, not totally unexpectedly, just before his report for this section of the annual report was due.

Suffice it to say that Gary's dedication to his many responsibilities was an integral part of the work and successes of Keystone PVA. He demonstrated that the chapter is where its active members are, not where the office is. If he was able to participate in the work and other activities offered by the chapter in any way, he was there, and if not, he was on the phone or present by e-mail. He used to finish many of his messages with "U R KPVA!!!" No one was more "KPVA" than Gary, and he will not be replaced, only succeeded.

# Keystone PVA thanks you for your generosity

These people and institutions made **direct donations** to the Keystone PVA in our **fiscal year 2015 (01 October 2014 to 30 September 2015)**. 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

Lance & Maria Alexander, Blairsville  
William Alexander, Pittsburgh  
American Legion Auxiliary Post 978, Weedville  
American Legion Post 106, Sharpsburg (golf outing)  
American Legion Post 299, Sharon  
American Legion Post 351, Verona  
Adam H. Andrae, Greensburg  
Assembly of God Church, Dave Nash, Triadelphia,  
West Virginia  
Edgar K. Blöse, Punxsutawney  
Harry Carey, Harrisburg  
Cigna Insurance Co, Nikki Andrako, Pittsburgh  
Kellie Cramer, Reynoldsville, Pa  
Marco Dimemmo, W. Conshohocken, Pa  
Kristine Dongilla, Jeannette  
Jerome & Deborah Dragoone, Glenshaw  
Christine Errin, King of Prussia  
Fidelity Chari GDR Charitable Trust, Ms. Giap Nguyen,  
Houston, TX  
Fidelity Charitable GDR, Cincinnati, Ohio  
Fidelity Charitable Grant, Eugene Klaber, Slippery Rock  
Fidelity Charitable Rosalie M. Murrer Charitable Fund,  
Pittsburgh  
Fidelity Charitable, Cincinnati, Ohio  
Fidelity Charitable, William J. Petkanics, West Mifflin  
Gail Goldberg, Warminster, Pa  
Tom & Debbie Goral, Pittsburgh  
James Gray & Pattie Lujetic  
Louann Hamilton, Pittsburgh  
Patricia Harris  
Jon Hawk, Pittsburgh  
Cheryl Hika  
Teresa Hohn, Marietta  
Gail S. Kephart, Hummelstown  
Keystone Coach Works, Inc., Bethel Park  
Tom Landish, Monongahela  
Mr. & Mrs. James MacKenzie, Oxford  
Daniel Martin, North Irwin  
Jay & Elaine Medasie, Claysburg  
Merrit Herr-Neckar Family, Holmes

Melvin & Daria Newsom, Pittsburgh  
Ms. Raluca Oleanu, Philadelphia  
William S. O'Neill, Moon Township  
Others First, Rick Frazier and David Kennedy,  
Rochester Hills, Michigan  
Palm Beach Kennel Club, Patrick Rooney,  
West Palm Beach, Florida  
Philadelphia Contribution Insurance Co., Philadelphia  
Cynthia Rieken, San Francisco, California  
Roxanne Romah-Picard, Pittsburgh  
Rooney's Golf Foundation, Patrick Rooney,  
West Palm Beach, Florida  
Alan & Liddie Ann Segal, Allison Park  
Janice Shaffer, New Castle  
Sharp Edge Bistro, Sewickley  
Chris Sheets  
Elaine Simms, Pittsburgh  
South Fayette Township School District, McDonald  
R & K Swope, Reading  
Karen Switzer, Lebanon  
F.W. & Peggy Taverner, Silver Spring, Maryland  
Teamster's Local Union # 205, White Oak  
Scott & Beth Tkach, Castle Shannon  
Trib Total Media, Kristy Wilson, Pittsburgh  
VFW Club 8269 Home Association, Howard  
Sam & Susan Weber, Coraopolis

## DONATIONS for EASTER BAGS for HOSPITALIZED VETERANS

American Legion Post 260, Bushy Run  
American Legion Post 778, Butler  
American Legion Auxiliary Post 902, Canonsburg  
American Legion Post 82, Carnegie  
American Legion Post 365, Corry  
American Legion Auxiliary Post 380, Dravosburg  
American Legion Post 902, Houston  
American Legion Auxiliary Post 359, Irwin  
American Legion Post 485, McDonald  
American Legion Post 48, Natrona Heights

*(Continued on page 12)*



## 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. (The newer PVA “Saluting Man” logo is now being applied to new and refurbished boxes.) American Thrift Center is registered as a fundraising organization with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Its beneficiaries are the Keystone Paralyzed Veterans.

American Legion Post 785, Shaler  
 American Legion Post 683, Saxonburg  
 American Legion Post 775, Schenley  
 American Legion Post 18, Slickville  
 American Legion Post 790, Smithton  
 American Legion Post 114, Vandergrift  
 American Legion Post 243, West Sunbury  
 American Legion Post 161, Wexford  
 Edith Berstein, Pittsburgh  
 Ernest Clark, Wales Center, New York  
 Floyd D. Luttner, McMurray  
 Virginia Mance, Turtle Creek  
 William S. O'Neil, Moon Township  
 Presbyterian Church of Pitcairn, Pitcairn  
 William & Lois Schenker, Allison Park  
 VFW Pvt. James Perry Post 191, Canonsburg  
 VFW Post 3945, Morningside  
 VFW Post 92, New Kensington  
 VFW Post 7090, Summit, North Side  
 VFW Perry Township Gold Star Post 7023, Perryopolis  
 VFW Guyasuta Post 709, Sharpsburg

### MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In memory of Richard Bechtel  
 Wanda Bechtel, Palmyra

In memory of James J. Brennan  
 Barlow Car & Truck Center Delran, New Jersey

In memory of Paul J. Herman  
 Mary A. Cannon, Carnegie  
 Robert & Karen Clark, Clays, New York  
 Marie Dorish, Vacaville, California  
 Carol A. Guyaux, Carnegie  
 Laurie Koeppl, Oakdale  
 Gary & Noreen Kosem, McMurray  
 Elizabeth & James Kush, Fulton, New York  
 Gregory & Nicole Lenninger, Coraopolis  
 Colleen O'Hara, Harrison City  
 Susan Reyer, Cary, North Carolina

Patricia Rowles, Pittsburgh  
 Orlando Sodini Pittsburgh  
 Mary & John Stiker, Hamburg, New York

In memory of Doris Kaiser  
 Norma Jean Schweinbinz, Pittsburgh

In memory of William McClaine  
 Lynne & George Ellis, Cranberry  
 Yvonne Healy, Yorba Linda, California  
 Edward & Mary Hoffman, East Brady  
 Catherine Moser, Pittsburgh  
 Sandra & Michael Potchak, Karns City  
 Frank E. Roth & Family, Pittsburgh

In memory of Raymond Palaschak  
 Doris M. Sweeney, Evansville, Indiana

In memory of Lester Richardson  
 Carolyn & Josh Alberry, Copenhagen, New York  
 Judith Eisel, Copenhagen, New Hampshire  
 West Greene E. Association, Washington

In memory of Joseph Winiarski  
 Louis Laib, Philadelphia

In memory of Jacob Zerphey  
 Florence Zerphey, Palmyra

### DONATIONS supporting wheelchair athletes participating in the NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

Karen Switzer, Lebanon  
 American Legion Post 432, Wheatland

### NON-CASH DONATIONS

Lance Alexander, Blairsville  
 Gloria Atherholt, Danville  
 Mobility Works, Wall  
 Marian Thurston, 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 2014 and 2015 audit. The following opinion letter, Statement of Activities, and Statement of Financial Position are the highlights of the results of the FY 2015 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](http://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, 2015 and 2014, 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.

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 appropriate 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, 2015 and 2014, 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 21, 2016

KEYSTONE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC

**STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES**

For the Years Ended September 30, 2015 and 2014

	<b>9/30/2015</b>	<b>9/30/2014</b>
Unrestricted net assets		
<b>Unrestricted revenues and support:</b>		
National PVA contributions	\$ 155,775	\$ 155,000
Thrift Shop Fundraising	66,591	63,030
General contributions	40,087	40,296
Trap Shoot tournament	9,995	8,595
Membership dues	1,225	900
Newsletter advertising	968	628
Project Salvage/"ammo" donation boxes	869	--
Combined Federal Campaign	262	2,698
Hunting and Fishing Tournaments	240	710
Non-cash property and equipment contribution	--	--
Income from investments		
Interest and dividends	39,996	32,995
Net gain (loss) on investments	(62,389)	35,667
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>6,457</u>	<u>5,000</u>
<b>Total unrestricted revenue and support</b>	<b>260,076</b>	<b>345,529</b>
<b>Unrestricted expenses:</b>		
<b>Program services:</b>		
Membership and benefits	142,669	145,320
Public affairs	113,656	99,518
Research	<u>9,945</u>	<u>10,893</u>
<b>Support services:</b>		
General and Administrative	77,944	75,352
Fundraising	<u>9,735</u>	<u>8,989</u>
<b>Total unrestricted expenses</b>	<b><u>353,949</u></b>	<b><u>340,072</u></b>
Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets	(93,873)	5,457
Temporarily restricted net assets		
National PVA special grant	7,500	--
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>(6,457)</u>	<u>(5,000)</u>
Increase (decrease) in temporarily restricted net assets	1,043	(5,000)
Net increase (decrease) in net assets	(93,873)	457
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>1,509,987</u>	<u>1,509,530</u>
<b>Net assets at end of year</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,417,157</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,509,987</u></b>

KEYSTONE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC  
**STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
For the Years Ended September 30, 2015 and 2014

	September 30,	
	2015	2014
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and equivalents	\$ 139,413	\$ 127,417
Advertising and fundraising receivables	12,160	13,773
Prepaid expenses	7,271	7,310
Supply inventory	<u>1,638</u>	<u>1,176</u>
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>160,482</b>	<b>150,058</b>
Investments at fair value	1,038,191	1,105,878
Property and equipment, net	<u>246,590</u>	<u>273,809</u>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ <u>1,445,263</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>1,529,745</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 28,106	\$ 19,758
<b>Net assets</b>		
Unrestricted	1,416,114	1,509,987
Temporarily restricted	<u>1,043</u>	<u>--</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>\$ <u>1,417,157</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>1,509,987</u></b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$ <u>1,445,263</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>1,529,745</u></b>

## Administration and staff report *(Continued from page 16)*

Two good measures of office-centered activity are the incoming phone calls and preparation for public exhibits.

Office Manager Diane Byrnes recorded taking 1,043 incoming phone calls during FY2015; 40 percent of them were calls from members seeking some form of support, service or information. Executive Director Joe Dornbrock and Administrative Assistant Beth Carmona took additional calls at times, but Diane handled most of them by far. (This does not include incoming e-mail, which we estimate at 30 to 40 a day, not including “junk” e-mail.)

Joe Dornbrock has organized literature, displays and promotional items for outreach exhibits, such as the Combined Federal Campaign “fairs” or veterans’ service exhibits. He, Board members and other volunteers staffed 17 exhibits in FY 2015, giving away thousands of

items and meeting face-to-face with an estimated 550 people, promoting PVA, the chapter and our mission.

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.

Diane Byrnes began her ninth year on staff in 2015, and Joe Dornbrock was with the chapter for over a decade by the end of FY2015. In November 2014, Beth Carmona joined the staff as the administrative assistant, with major responsibilities for supporting membership, organizing documents for the Board of Directors, supporting the chapter’s participation in the PVA Poster and Poetry Contest, and scheduling Congressional visits for chapter members.



## Paralyzed Veterans of America

Keystone Chapter

1113 Main Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15215-2407

Phone 412-781-2474 or 800-775-9323

Fax 412-781-2659

[www.kpva.org](http://www.kpva.org)

[keystonepva@comcast.net](mailto:keystonepva@comcast.net)

### Officers, Directors and Appointments, FY 2015

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:

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.

## Administration and staff report

The main purpose of the chapter staff is to provide support for the leadership, which is made up of members, the paralyzed veterans themselves. That support is mostly administrative work and facilities maintenance, plus filling in for members when they aren't available. Keystone PVA staffs its office in Sharpsburg, Pa., 40 hours a week, every week of the year except for holidays.

(Continued on page 15)

**Photo credits:** Agnes Strang, page 1, bottom photo; Chris Fidler, page 4; Jerry Baylor, 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.