



PVA
PARALYZED VETERANS
OF AMERICA

Kentucky – Indiana Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America

2008-2009 Annual Report

Improving the quality of life of veterans and others who
have spinal cord injury or disease



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Kevin Sparks, Vice President

Charles Parker, Secretary

Timothy Sells, Treasurer

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Richard Eisert, National Director

John Harris

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George Simpson

Staff

Alina Pabin-Prusak, Executive
Director

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Front cover: (left photo) Alina Pabin-Prusak, Kevin Sparks, Richard Eisert (right photo) board members, Richard Eisert, Michael Murphy, George Simpson, Richard Simers, Charles Parker, Tim Sells, Michael McLaughlin. Not pictured: John Harris, Don Bell, David Hornick

Dear KIPVA Members & Friends,

The Kentucky – Indiana Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (KIPVA) is pleased to present you with our annual report covering the period of October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009.

As you will see on the following pages, it has been another busy year for KIPVA. While many charitable organizations were forced to slash services or close doors, our chapter survived a tough economic year.

After experiencing a small decline in donations, the chapter continued to provide programs and services to its members.

Highlights of our year include the outstanding contributions made to the chapter by our volunteers and members. Our volunteers contributed a total of 4,468 volunteer hours to veterans in Kentucky and Indiana. Without their dedication our important work could not be done.

As we embark on another year, the chapter anticipates many challenges related to proposed changes in veterans' healthcare, state and federal budget shortfalls, and a still weakened economy. Despite barriers, our commitment to our mission and our members remains strong. We look forward to continuing to serve our members, disabled service members, and other persons living with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Richard Simers

Richard Simers
President



*Chapter President,
Richard Simers*

*"KIPVA members contributed 4,478
volunteer hours to the veterans of Kentucky
and Indiana this year."*

Outreach and Communications

The chapter communications program continues to be anchored by our monthly newsletter, the *Outreach*. This year's issues highlighted PVA sponsored sporting events, research programs, breaking news and information from the Veteran's Administration (VA), and featured articles from staff at the regional VA Medical Centers.

The chapter has also created a Facebook page to help inform its constituents of upcoming events and continues to maintain a user-friendly website, www.kipva.org, where information on the latest news, events, and issues of the *Outreach* can be accessed.



This year, the chapter also participated in local events in Indiana and Kentucky to provide members, veterans and others with disabilities important information on healthcare and accessibility. These events include participation in PVA Awareness Week and the Kentucky and Indiana ALS Association walks.

Fundraising

As a non-profit organization, participation in ongoing fundraising efforts is critical to supporting our mission and programs.

Our 2008-2009 fundraising efforts included raising money through advertisements in the *Outreach* newsletter and cultivating donations from members and friends of KIPVA.

Government Relations

The core focus of the chapter's government relations program is to participate in advocacy efforts aimed at improved veterans' benefits and support of the civil rights of disabled citizens. The chapter continues to have active volunteers in Kentucky and Indiana who champion our work in both the state and federal arenas. Highlights of state programs and engagement in national activities are included in the following report.

Indiana Program Overview

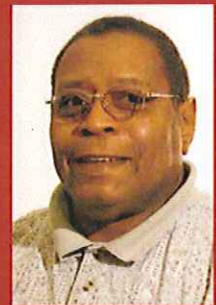
Twenty-eight military and veteran related bills were introduced to the 2009 Indiana General Assembly this session. Only five of these bills passed and were enacted.

For a list of successful bills, see the box to the right.

Successful Indiana Legislation

1. House Bill 1135
Expanded the eligibility for grants under the Military Family Relief Fund.
2. House Bill 1056
Provided military service credit for Teacher's Retirement Fund members.
3. House Bill 1258
Gives unlimited free parking at meters to veterans with former prisoner of war (POW) or disabled veteran plates.
4. Senate Bill 0039
Provides tuition exemption for Purple Heart recipients.

*Right: George Simpson,
Government Relations
Director - Indiana, VAVS
Representative - Indianapolis*



5. Senate Bill 0356

*Left: Richard Eisert,
Government Relations
Director, Kentucky*

2009 National PVA Advocacy Legislative Seminar

KIPVA chapter members participated in the 2009 National Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) Advocacy & Legislative Training Seminar. The seminar prepared PVA chapter members for conversations with federal legislators focused on the issues and concerns of PVA members. Areas of concern continued to be the proposed changes within the Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare system, including budget issues, and new ways to access funding sources for veterans care. This year, these issues were amplified by a slumping economy.

The chapter sent representatives who met with legislators and staff about the following issues:

- The Medicare Disability Waiting Period Act
- The Medicare Independent Living Act
- Fiscal year 2010 VA healthcare budget
- Advance appropriations for VA healthcare
- Elimination of co-payments for catastrophically disabled category four veterans
- Protection of specialized services

Kentucky Program Overview

As in past years, KIPVA's 2009 Kentucky government relations efforts were centered on our participation in and support of the Joint Executive Committee of Veterans Organizations (JECVO). The 2009 legislative session was the "short" session and budget issues dominated. The focus of Kentucky veterans was the preservation of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA) budget. While not spared from budget reductions, KDVA did not suffer the level of budget reductions as most state agencies.

In addition to working with JECVO, an effort was made to amend a Senate passed bill providing amputee veterans certain loan eligibility. The chapter's proposed amendment would have changed the language in the bill to include veterans with "loss of use of a limb" from "who lost a limb" as eligible for the loan program. Support from the bill's sponsor in the Senate and House was received, but this bill did not come out of the House committee.



Research

KIPVA's commitment to research on spinal cord injury and disease continues to be strong. This year marked the final year in the chapter's five year commitment to the national PVA research foundation.

The chapter also awarded \$2,000 in grant funding to the University of Kentucky Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Center and \$2,000 in funding to the University of Louisville's Kentucky Spinal Cord Injury Research Center.



Above: Rebecca Nosil, Alina Prusak, Don Bell, and faculty of the University of Kentucky Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Center

Left: PVA members Charles Parker and George Simpson with Indiana Representative Pence

Hospital Liaison & Service

Our chapter's hospital liaison program ensures that PVA member issues are a priority within the VA healthcare system. Chapter members and staff attend meetings at regional VA Medical Centers (VAMC) and volunteer at Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) clinics.

KIPVA also donates prosthetic equipment (wheelchairs, lifts, walkers, etc.) to those who do not meet the VA requirements. The following report includes information about the chapter's service activities in Indiana & Kentucky.

Indianapolis IN

The SCI clinic at the Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis is fully staffed and is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for appointments.

The Indiana service office had another busy year and attributes the influx of cases to service connection for Veterans with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) cases, and returning OIF/OEF veterans.

This year, the Indianapolis service office obtained 54 new powers of attorney, 42 of those were member or member-eligible veterans. Overall, the Indiana service office made 5,070 individual contacts, over 76% of the contacts were with member or member-eligible veterans.

The officers also helped secure over \$1,696,593 in benefits for veterans, 89% of these were member or member-eligible veterans. The office served a total of 459 clients and filed 561 claims in fiscal year 2008-2009.

Other activities included chapter participation in the Homeless Veterans Stand Down in Indianapolis, attendance at Military/Veterans Coalition of Indiana meetings, attending the ninth annual Indiana Military Veterans/Retiree Appreciation Day and Information Fair, and participation in the POW/MIA ceremony in Indianapolis.

Louisville & Lexington KY

The Louisville SCI clinic continues to run smoothly and is open for appointments on Tuesdays. Chapter volunteers and staff participate in quarterly SCI team meetings, monthly director's meetings and the VAMC customer service board.

Currently, the Lexington VAMC does not have a certified SCI clinic. Chapter board members met with the VAMC director this year and encouraged the leadership team to pursue certification.

The Louisville service office coverage area includes both the Louisville and Lexington VAMC. This year, service officers obtained 53 powers of

attorney, 44 of these were for member or member-eligible veterans. Overall, the Louisville service office made 6,303 individual contacts this year and helped secure \$6,334,451 in benefits for veterans, 87% of these funds were awarded to member or member-eligible veterans. The total number of clients served by the in fiscal year 2008-2009 Louisville office was 440.



Sports & Recreation

KIPVA maintains an active sports and recreation program. This year the chapter provided funding support to send members to the 2009 National Veterans Wheelchair Games, the 2009 VA Summer Sports Clinic in San Diego, CA, and the 2009 Winter Sports Clinic in Aspen, CO.

The chapter also hosted weekend trap and target shoots at French Range in Fort Knox, KY. Members Don Bell, Jim Burns, Michael McLaughlin (Sports Director), and Terry Sutton are pictured above at the range with associate members John McLaughlin and Mike Hack.

Fiscal Year 2008-2009

Financial Statements

**Paralyzed Veterans of America -
Kentucky-Indiana Chapter, Inc.**
Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets
Years Ended September 30, 2009 and 2008

	2009				2008			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Support and Revenues								
Contributions from National	\$ 190,146	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 190,146	\$ 208,815	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 208,815
Contributions from individuals	5,878	-	-	5,878	7,244	-	-	7,244
Charitable trust distributions	25,371	-	-	25,371	29,481	-	-	29,481
Membership dues	120	-	-	120	105	-	-	105
Investment income	16,164	-	-	16,164	23,575	-	-	23,575
Net realized/unrealized loss on investments	(36,850)	-	-	(36,850)	(52,568)	-	-	(52,568)
Loss in beneficial interest in charitable trust	-	-	(44,696)	(44,696)	-	-	(142,309)	(142,309)
Other income	3,535	-	-	3,535	2,025	-	-	2,025
Total Support and Revenues	204,364	-	(44,696)	159,668	218,677	-	(142,309)	76,368
Expenses								
Program services								
Membership and benefits	103,704	-	-	103,704	91,163	-	-	91,163
Public affairs	75,890	-	-	75,890	72,277	-	-	72,277
Research	7,634	-	-	7,634	3,370	-	-	3,370
	<u>187,228</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>187,228</u>	<u>166,810</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>166,810</u>
Support services								
General and administrative	43,777	-	-	43,777	38,669	-	-	38,669
Total Expenses	231,005	-	-	231,005	205,479	-	-	205,479
Changes in Net Assets	(26,641)	-	(44,696)	(71,337)	13,198	-	(142,309)	(129,111)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	748,475	14,951	465,150	1,228,576	750,228	-	607,459	1,357,687
Prior period adjustment	-	-	-	-	(14,951)	14,951	-	-
Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 721,834	\$ 14,951	\$ 420,454	\$ 1,157,239	\$ 748,475	\$ 14,951	\$ 465,150	\$ 1,228,576

**Paralyzed Veterans of America -
Kentucky-Indiana Chapter, Inc.
Statements of Financial Position
September 30, 2009 and 2008**

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 63,371	\$ 62,102
Interest receivable	2,402	3,559
Prepaid expenses	2,336	2,472
Investments	445,817	465,762
Land, building and equipment, net	226,864	235,691
Beneficial interest in charitable trust	420,454	465,150
	<u>420,454</u>	<u>465,150</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 1,161,244</u>	<u>\$ 1,234,736</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 2,821	\$ 2,611
Accrued compensated absences	1,184	3,549
	<u>1,184</u>	<u>3,549</u>
Total Liabilities	4,005	6,160
Commitments and Contingencies		
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	721,834	748,475
Temporarily restricted	14,951	14,951
Permanently restricted	420,454	465,150
	<u>420,454</u>	<u>465,150</u>
	<u>1,157,239</u>	<u>1,228,576</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 1,161,244</u>	<u>\$ 1,234,736</u>



Chapter member Jim Burns at the 2009 National veterans Wheelchair Games

Kentucky – Indiana Chapter of the
Paralyzed Veterans of America

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