

# Kentucky - Indiana Chapter

*Member Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Inc.*



**2004-2005  
Annual Report**



**Kentucky - Indiana Chapter  
Paralyzed Veterans of America, Inc.**

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***READERS OF THE ANNUAL REPORT:***

Our Chapter has eleven Board of Directors. Of the eleven there are four who are officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The President conducts meetings and gives guidance to the board; he cannot make motions or vote unless it is to break a tie vote. The Vice-President is there to perform the duties of the president when he is absent. Also, he's available for special projects. The Secretary is responsible for creating and reacting to our business correspondence. In addition, in our Chapter he co-signs our checks. Every other year he is responsible for conducting our elections. The Treasurer is responsible for our finances. He manages our investments in savings accounts, certificates of deposit, mutual funds, stocks, and real estate. He also co-signs our checks.

The Board of Directors are assigned to committees designed to support our members. Last year the committees were the Election Committee, Finance Committee, Sports Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, Audit Committee, and Hardship Committee.

If that isn't enough, selected members are assigned as volunteers to each of the three Veterans Affairs Medical Centers, and as advocates to the General Assemblies in Indianapolis, Frankfort, and our Congress in Washington, DC. And, one member is elected to represent our Chapter to the National PVA Board of Directors. Two National Service Officers employed by National PVA are located in Indianapolis and Louisville and are primarily supporting member claims.

In other parts of this Annual Report the members explain in detail what they did last year. In summary, we donated over \$31,000; drove over 51,000 miles, and spent 6,400+ hours in support of our members – which is our sole reason for being.

Respectfully submitted,

James Meyer

James Meyer  
President

## ***Officers***

James Meyer  
President

Richard Simers  
Vice-President

Charles Parker  
Secretary

Tim Sells  
Treasurer

## ***Board of Directors***

Don Bell	Richard Eisert
Jim Green	David Hornick
Matt Hulvey	Michael Murphy
James Patrick	George Simpson

## ***National Director***

James Patrick

## ***National Service Officers***

William Marcum, Senior NSO  
Debby Logsdon, Senior Secretary  
545 South Third Street, Room 127  
Louisville, KY 40202

Alan Munn, NSO, II  
Sharon Gaines, Senior Secretary  
575 Pennsylvania Street, Room 328  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

## ***Executive Director***

Rebecca Nosil

## ***Administrative Assistant***

Vickie Marcum

## ***Program Directors***

FINANCE: Tim Sells

FUNDRAISING: James Meyer

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS:  
Indiana George Simpson  
Kentucky James Patrick

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:  
Rebecca Nosil

MEMBERSHIP: Rebecca Nosil

RESEARCH: Richard Simers

SERVICE: James Meyer

SPORTS: Jim Green

VAVS:  
Indianapolis George Simpson  
Lexington Richard Eisert  
Louisville Charles Parker

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:  
Vickie Marcum

WHEELCHAIR REPAIR:  
James Meyer

## **Chapter Mission Statement**

The mission of Kentucky-Indiana PVA is to improve the quality of life of U.S. military veterans and others who have spinal cord dysfunction through the use of advocacy, research, sports and recreation, education and communication.

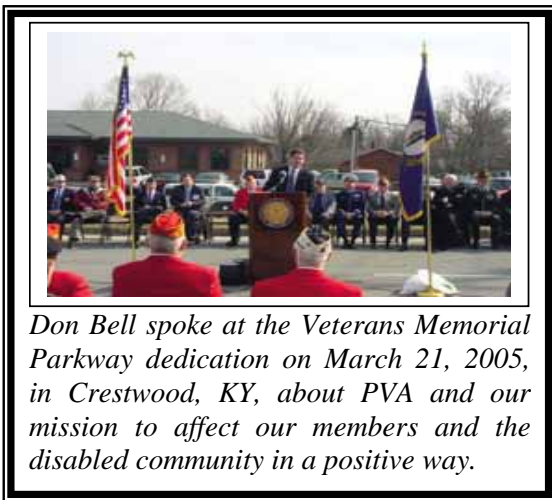
## ***Administration***

The chapter headquarters is located at 1030 Goss Avenue in Louisville, Kentucky. This is where we hold our Board of Directors and General Membership meetings, publish our newsletter, hold social functions, provide free meeting space to other nonprofit groups, and carry on the day-to-day operations of the Chapter.



## ***Communication***

We published our newsletter "Outreach" twelve times this year. This is our main communication with our membership, National Directors, and other PVA chapters. It covers such topics as for your information, government relations, Veterans Affairs changes, service, sports, and chapter activities.



*Don Bell spoke at the Veterans Memorial Parkway dedication on March 21, 2005, in Crestwood, KY, about PVA and our mission to affect our members and the disabled community in a positive way.*

## ***Fundraising***

The Chapter has various fundraising programs to raise money in support of the programs and services the chapter provides to its membership. Fundraising activities include telemarketing, grant writing, and the generous donors who make contributions to the chapter.

## ***Government Relations***

Kentucky Program Overview  
Director: James Patrick

In Frankfort the battle has been very much the same as last year. The fight to ensure adequate funding for the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs has been very intense. As revenues shrink, the fight for available funding pits several special interest groups working against each other for each dollar. Fortunately the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs has managed to hold it's own in this fight and manages to perform its mission.

Indiana Program Overview  
Director: George Simpson

This year's 2005 Indiana General Assembly session began after an election year, and a new Indiana Governor was elected, making this session a transition period for the Indiana legislators. The Governor began by selecting a new administrative staff, including a new director of Veterans Affairs, which means we must establish relationships with legislators and government staff. However, the process is time consuming and tedious, but the results would bring good accommodation for the chapter.

Listed below are the disability and veterans' related legislative bills introduced to the General Assembly; the underlined bills passed.

**HB1034**: Daylight Savings Time.

**HB1069**: Home and Community Base Services.

**HB1089**: Medicaid cash counseling waiver.

**HB1211**: Disabled veteran license.

**SB0082**: High School Diplomas for Korean and Vietnam conflict veterans.

**SB0083**: Eligibility for admission to Veterans Homes.

**SB0105**: Background checks for nursing home employees.

**SB0111**: Local funding for Memorial Day celebration.

**SB0183**: Veterans Affairs for financial assistance for veterans.

Advocacy/Legislation Seminar  
Washington, D.C.

On March 6-11, 2005, the Paralyzed Veterans of America Annual Chapter Advocacy/Legislation Training Seminar was held in Washington, DC.

This weeklong training seminar has established a reputation as one of the most effective tools that any veterans group has for speaking on behalf of its members. Veterans stormed Capitol Hill in wheelchairs with one strong and determined message, and what a powerful message it was! Fully fund the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Services.

This seminar allows participants the opportunity to delivery PVA's issues and messages to lawmakers on Capitol Hill, and participation from each chapter is necessary and important.

The Chapter sent four representatives who were able to meet with several congresspersons.

## ***Research***

Research Director: Richard Simers

This saw our first of a five-year commitment to National PVA's SCRF. We again contributed to the Center for Paralysis Research, which is a joint operation at Purdue University and Indiana University. We also contributed to the University of Kentucky's Spinal Cord and Brain Research Center and the University of Louisville Health and Science Center's, Kentucky Spinal Cord Injury Research Center.



*Vice President Richard Simers and Carl Rhoten presented a check to Purdue University researcher Dr. Borgens (center).*

## ***Service***

Indiana Service Officer's Report  
NSO, II: Alan Munn

The PVA Indianapolis, IN office is busy providing quality representation to our PVA members and members eligible along with the

other veteran population. The office is staffed by Alan Munn, NSO II and Sharon Gaines, Sr. Secretary.

The SCI Clinic visits are on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings every week. Depending on the needs of our veterans I will visit the VA Medical Center and/or Nursing Homes on other days as well. I continue to work closely with the Prosthetics and Physical Therapy clinics in order to better assess the needs of our veterans.

In FY 05 I had 4 inpatient visits, 72 outpatient (SCI Clinic) contacts of member/member eligible veterans, 34 office interviews and 3 field interviews during the reporting period.

We represent a total of 492 veterans. Out of that total we represent 280 member/member eligible veterans and 26 survivors and/or dependents of members. We filed 376 total claims for veterans the past 12 months. We were successful in obtaining over \$1,875,007 in benefits for veterans we represent during the same time frame.

During the fiscal year we attended the POW/MIA Recognition Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Women Veterans Exposition, and Veterans Appreciation Day functions. Once each year I attend the PVA Awareness Week at the VA Medical Center Indianapolis, IN.

Also, I have attended the monthly service officer meetings at the VA Medical Center Indianapolis, IN and the quarterly service officer meetings at the Northern Indiana Health Care System in Fort Wayne, IN.

As always we will continue to attend the SCI Clinics and serve our veterans as well as expand our veteran representation by continuing to perform outreach throughout the State of Indiana.

Kentucky Service Officer's Report  
NSO, Senior: Phil Marcum

During the past 12 months there have been no staff changes and the office continues to be maintained by one Senior National Service Officer and one Senior Secretary.

Productivity in the office was adequate. A total of 20 member/member eligible power of

attorneys were obtained. Total contacts for members and non-members were 3,361. The total of monetary benefit was \$619,043. The total number of representation is 468 clients.

My coverage of doing outreach and hospital visits were limited this past year due to being on a temporary duty assignment in Manhattan, New York and Newark, New Jersey. I have been working as a training coordinator, training National Service Officer Candidates. Hospital coverage was maintained at the Louisville VA Medical Center due to Mr. Harold Maddocks assuming the position of Veterans Liaison Officer (VLO). Harold was at the SCI Clinic weekly and obtained representation for our members. In my absence office coverage was maintained by my secretary, Debby Burns. This year Debby was selected to be a member of the Employees Advisory Committee. This committee was formed by the Veterans Benefit Department at PVA National Headquarters. Members of this committee gather suggestions in ways to improve employee relations and operating procedures from the field staff and pass these to upper management for consideration.

The Continued Education Program was held in October 2004, in Atlanta, Georgia. National Service Officers from all the states were present along with National Staff for a week of training in all aspects of service work.

As always, I will continue to work closely with the chapter staff to provide the best possible representation for our members to resolve any issues that should arise.

Chapter Program Overview  
Service Director: James Meyer

We donated money to the Indianapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) for:

- sending a Wheelchair Specialist to the Med Trade Show in Georgia,
- sending two doctors, one nurse practitioner, and one social worker to the American Paraplegic Society Meeting in Nevada,
- the Indiana POW/MIA Recognition Day,
- walkers pouches.

We donated money to the Louisville VAMC for:

- sending two nurses to the American Paraplegic Society Meeting in Nevada,
- magazine subscriptions.

We donated money to the Lexington VAMC for:

- purchasing comfort items for inpatients.

We donated money to other organizations:

- Southeastern Indiana Independent Living Center,
- donated money for Veteran's Day Council to support Veteran's Day activities,
- Toys for Tots,
- Kids Wish Network,
- donated money to help build an athletic field for special needs children,
- Bayou – Gulf States Chapter PVA.

We donated money, time, and prosthetics to:

- PVA hardship cases
- underprivileged children
- sent 900 pairs of socks for Christmas to Kentucky and Indiana veterans nursing homes.
- veterans, their family, and others that did not qualify for VA or DVR assistance.

We participated in the Paralyzed Veterans of America Awareness Week by setting up an information booth and giving away flags, magnets, pens, wrist bands, and mini-Frisbees at the Louisville Slugger Field.

*With donations from the employees at the Kmart on Poplar Level Road we were able to send t-shirts, telephone cards, calendars, and head sets to the veterans at Eastern Kentucky, Western Kentucky, Thomson-Hood, and Indiana Veterans Centers.*

## **Sports**

Sports Director: Jim Green

This year brought a lot of changes to the sports program. We combined the Louisville VAMC team and the KIPVA team for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG). The requirements to be funded for a first time event have been changed and the limit for funded events was set at four. The sports program sent more people to more events than ever before.

- We sent four members and two aides to the 25<sup>th</sup> NVWG in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

- We sent one member to three of the PVA Trap Shoot tour events - Arizona, Delaware-Maryland, and Southeastern.
- We sent one member to the DAV Winter Sports Clinic in Aspen, Colorado.
- We sent one member to the Ozark Angle Bass Tournament.
- We sent one member to the Ohio Wheelchair Games.
- We bought eight handicapped season tickets to the Indianapolis Colts home games which are raffled off to members each year.
- We sponsored a monthly target shoot with President Meyer near Ft. Knox, KY.
- We gave a cash prize to the winning logo design for the new NVWG team.
- We sent three members to the Land of Lincoln PVA Bass Tournament.
- We bought a used basketball chair for a Louisville teenager with Spina-Bifida.

*Sports Director Jim Green and basketball chair recipient.*



### ***Liaison***

Indianapolis VAMC Program Overview  
Representative: George Simpson

On September 16, 2005, in Indianapolis the annual National POW/MIA was held on the north side of the Indiana War Memorial, which began promptly at noon.

The guest speaker was Dr. Gerald Harvey (former POW World War II). Dr. Harvey along with crew members was shot down and crashed into the North Sea, on their second mission over Germany. In his speech Dr. Harvey conveyed to the audience to remember that 'Freedom is not free,' and the POW/MIA's recognition ceremony theme 'They're not all back home.'

It was an honor being a ceremony bell ringer, representing the Kentucky – Indiana Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Preparation and planning for the POW/MIA recognition ceremony was a combined effort by veterans service organizations throughout Indiana; the Indiana Regional Office, and the Indianapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center's Voluntary Services.

The Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Clinic in Indianapolis is a fully VA staffed clinic that is open on Tuesday afternoons and all day on Wednesday.

Louisville VAMC Program Overview  
Representative: Charles Parker

The KIPVA Chapter donated \$8,500.00 for an overhead lift system for the SCI care room at the Louisville VAMC.



*President Jim Meyer (far right) and wife Sharon, along with Don Bell, presented the check to Ms Wanda Mims, acting director.*

The SCI clinic is still going strong at the Louisville VAMC and we are in communications with the MS clinic and wherever we can help out at the hospital.

Board of Director Don Bell, and myself continue to volunteer at the Louisville VAMC. KIPVA now has their fifth perfect attendance awards for VAWS Committee meetings.

Executive Director Rebecca Nosil volunteers and serves on the Customer Service Board and the Reward and Recognition committee at the Louisville VAMC.

Lexington VAMC Program Overview  
 Representative: Richard Eisert

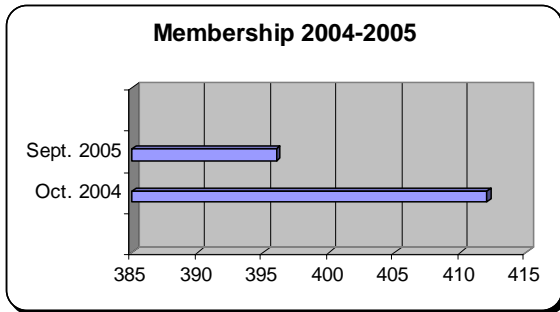
652 hours of volunteer time were logged by KIPVA members at the Lexington VAMC during this fiscal year.

We donated \$384.00 for personal hygiene care kits.

**Membership**

Our records indicate that Chapter membership as of September 30, 2005, is as follows:

Service-Connected Life Members	186
Non-Service Connected Life Members	<u>210</u>
Total Chapter Regular Members	396
Total Associate Members	53
Total Regular and Associate Members	449



**Memorials**

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| JoAnne Blodgett | Steven Breeding |
| Donald Brock    | John Cottrell   |
| Harold DeNoon   | Howard Dillan   |
| Kenneth Duncan  | Harlan Duvall   |
| Robie Finley    | Keith Gasser    |
| Letha Glunt     | Arval Grow      |
| John Henry      | Timothy Howard  |
| Sara Hummel     | Marvin Kendrick |
| Euel Kirby      | Leon Lewis      |
| G W Maynard     | Stephen Miller  |
| William Niel    | Gregory Plank   |
| Max Rhorer      | Lloyd Ross      |
| Joseph Rossiter | William Tatum   |
| Gerald Taulman  | Mark Thompson   |
| Marion Waller   |                 |

**Contributions**

We wish to thank the following people for their support.

Anonymous (2)

- Clarence Brancamp
- James Clark
- Martin Cone
- Francis Fowler
- Ruth Johnson
- K-Mart Employees (Poplar Level Rd.)
- Estate of Sudie F. Karrick
- Dorothy Krupp
- Mr. & Mrs. Charles Leedy
- Vickie Marcum
- James & Sharon Meyer
- Mt. Vernon Intermediate School
- Helen Nolan
- Charles Parker
- James & Rita Patrick
- Larry & Bonnie Plaskett
- Mary Jo Satterfield
- Jamesa Sells
- Linda Staples
- Catherine Vandenberghe

**Memorial Contributions**

In memory of  
**Stephen Miller**

By Moe & K. J. Chamness

Dr. Jay & Nadine Close

Mr. & Mrs. Randall Johnson, Sr.

**Volunteer Program**

Vickie Marcum oversaw the Volunteer Program. It runs from October 1 through September 30 of each year. This year our volunteers have been very active putting in 6,473 hours and traveling more than 51,466 miles.

The Volunteer Program is an important part of our organization, and it would be difficult to exist without our dedicated people. Volunteers, you are greatly appreciated.

*President Meyer presents VP Dick Simers an award for his 1,415 volunteer hours*



