

Kentucky - Indiana Chapter

Member Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Inc.



**2005-2006
Annual Report**



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

1030 Goss Avenue
Louisville, KY 40217-1236
(502) 635-6539
Fax: (502) 635-5064
E-mail: pvachkind@mindspring.com

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 Board members and staff explain in detail what they did last year 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
Jim Green
James Patrick
Kevin Sparks

Richard Eisert
Michael Murphy
George Simpson

National Director

James Patrick

Executive Director

Rebecca Nosil

Administrative Assistant

Vickie Marcum

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

Director: Rebecca Nosil

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.

We participated in the Paralyzed Veterans of America Awareness Week, April 9-15, by setting up an information booth and giving away flags, magnets, pens, wrist bands, and mini-Frisbees at the Lexington Applebee's Field. We also had an open house at the chapter office which built awareness about Paralyzed Veterans and our programs.



Board of Director Don Bell throwing out the "1st pitch."

Fundraising

Director: James Meyer

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.

Contributions

We wish to thank the following people for their support.

Anonymous (3)
Deborah Castle
James & Chun Clark
Dennis Eldridge
Harold & Jane Maddocks
James & Sharon Meyer
Randall Morrow
Helen Nolan
Charles Parker
Larry & Bonnie Plaskett
Quantrell Auto Group
Joey Rivera
Donald & Anna Roark
Tim & Jamesa Sells
Ronald Stambaugh
Frank & Phyllis Wade
Wal-Mart Foundation

Memorial Contributions

In memory of
Robert Hudson
By Mary Kay Tubello
Suzette Venturini

In memory of
Catherine Johnston
By Kathy Alexander
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Beam
Brownhurst Manor Homeowners Assoc.
Fay Elliott
Robert & Judith Goodwin
Dana Hardesty
Mary Hill
Mark & Pam Hollinden
Stephanie King
Phil & Vickie Marcum

John & Teresa Mazzoni
John & Woo Meyers
Steve & Rebecca Nosil
Susan Olson
Rita Owens
Rodney & Dawn Rogers
Ahmed Salem
George & Bernadine Silliman
Marion Tandy
UPS Employees
John & Jilli Worth

In memory of
James McCafferty
By Brynda Hall

In memory of
Robert Ridings
By Jack & Mary Bowyer
Dr. & Mrs. David Bruenderman
Anthony & Julie Elliott
Kimberly Garrett
Taylor & Sharon Ridings
Riley Polly
Stephen & Donna Taylor
Jayne Watson
Thomas & Barbara Zehnder

Government Relations

Kentucky Program Overview
Director: James Patrick

Government Relations for the Commonwealth of Kentucky has always been a challenge. Fewer elected leaders have ever served this great nation in uniform and have no comparable life experiences which would allow them to identify with today's veteran. Therefore we are constantly trying to reinvent the wheel and train a new group of legislators after each election. In order to be successful, we must develop relationships with legislators and their staffs.

The 2006 session of the General Assembly, through the combined efforts of all veterans service organizations united under the banner of the Joint Executive Council of Veterans Organizations (JECVO), played a leading roll advocating for veterans needs in Frankfort. We were successful in securing funding for the operation of the Department of Veterans Affairs. We are seeing the completion of the State Veterans Cemetery at Fort Knox and the beginning of construction at Dry Ridge, KY for our third State Veterans Cemetery. A site was selected both in North East and South East

Kentucky for the construction of future veteran's cemeteries.

Expansions at the Thompson-Hood Veterans Center and at the Western Kentucky Veterans Center is allowing our state veterans nursing homes to better provide for the needs of Kentucky veterans, especially in the care of veterans with dementia. Our legislature is now considering the possibility of a fourth veterans nursing home somewhere in the state. Of course the state must escrow the state's percentage of the construction costs before application is made with the Department of Veterans Affairs. This will require the cooperation of legislators in Washington and in Frankfort. They must reach across party lines and work together for the common good of veterans and their families.

Our successes in the past have taught us how to succeed in the future. It requires a joint effort involving everyone from the veteran and his/her family to the President of the United States. Every elected leader is an employee of the people and we must make them understand that they serve at the will of the people, to do our will. We the voters have a responsibility to inform, educate and to make sure they not only know our needs and desires, but that they work to help us accomplish these goals. Every citizen has a responsibility to be a willing and working part of our government, making sure that the ones who fought for and won our freedoms are not neglected. Get to know your legislators today and make sure they recognize the needs of veterans.

Indiana Program Overview
Director: George Simpson

This year's 2006 Indiana General Assembly Session was brief, and any veteran related bills with monetary concerns attached to it were simply ignored, except for one bill. However, next year's Indiana General Assembly looks promising, after joining the Indiana Military – Veterans Coalition, a veterans group with a legislative agenda and strategy, similar to the chapter.

Listed below is the only military and veteran's related bill that the General Assembly passed. **SB0075:** Military Family Trust Fund provides grants to the family of Indiana residents who are members of the National Guard and the Reserves and have been called to active duty after September 11, 2001.

Advocacy/Legislation Seminar
Washington, D.C.

On March 6-9, 2006, the Paralyzed Veterans of America held its Annual Advocacy/Legislation Seminar in Washington, DC. This year's seminar focused on shifting priorities of the federal government and its implications for the programs and services upon which PVA's members depend.

The point papers were:

- Eliminate Co-payments for Catastrophically Disabled Category Four Veterans
- FY 2007 VA Health Care Budget
- Housing for Veterans & People with Disabilities
- Lifespan Respite Care Act
- Protection of Specialized Services
- The Class Act
- Emergency Preparedness & Response for Individuals with Disabilities Act
- VA's Fourth Mission

The Chapter sent three representatives who were able to meet, and advocate the issues and concerns of PVA to several Congress persons.



Senator Bayh's aide Derick Mortelman met with Charles Parker and George Simpson.

Liaison

Indianapolis VAMC Program Overview
Representative: George Simpson

On September 15, 2006, in Indianapolis the annual National POW/MIA Ceremony was held on the north side of the Indiana War Memorial, now the ceremony's permanent site.

The guest speaker was Don A. Sharer, Captain, USN (Ret.), former POW. A native Hoosier,

Mr. Sharer graduated from Plainfield High School and Indiana University. He joined the Navy and was commissioned as an Ensign. Mr. Sharer service time includes three (3) tours over Lebanon, the strike on Libya, and as a member of the US Embassy in Tehran, Iran, as one of the Iranian Hostages for 444 days (1979-1981).

It was an honor being a POW/MIA 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 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

This year our focus was spent towards volunteering where needed in the hospital. On Tuesdays, I volunteer in the Prosthetics Department. Don Bell, fellow board member, volunteers in the SCI clinic where he assists Beth McClellan, Al Cummings volunteers in the escort service, and BOD member Kevin Sparks volunteers in the cyber space program which he does out of his home. Executive Director Rebecca Nosil volunteers on several committees at Louisville VAMC.

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. We received another perfect attendance award for attending VAVS meetings.

The monthly meetings with the Director continued and in June, VA Secretary, Nicholson announced that the Louisville area will be receiving a new, state-of-art medical center from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to replace the existing facility.

Lexington VAMC Program Overview
Representative: Richard Eisert

During the past year the chapter gave the Lexington VAMC financial support in the amount of \$800.00. These funds were expended to provide inpatients with personal care kits containing such items as toothbrushes,

4/Annual Report 2006 chapter was several parking parking garage identified as "van accessible" to accommodate lift and ramp equipped vans. Also a parking space for "oversize lift vans" was identified and labeled. This parking space is located at the rear of the hospital. These van parking spaces were retained following the parking garage renovation.

Membership

Director: Rebecca Nosil

Kentucky – Indiana PVA membership remains strong, currently standing at 377 members; 182 service connected life members and 195 non-service connected members. Sadly, 26 of the chapter's members passed away this year. They will be missed.

Our 2006 award recipients were:

Presidents Award

*James Green
Charles Parker*

Member of Year Award

John Harris

Research

Director: Richard Simers

This was our second of a five-year commitment to National PVA's SCRF.



Executive Dir. Rebecca Nosil and National Dir. James Patrick presented a check for research to National President Randy Pleva.

Service

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

The Indianapolis Service Office continues to operate with Alan Munn, NSO, II and Sharon Gaines, Senior Secretary. Our office stayed very busy this past year working with PVA members and veteran population and as always I feel we were very successful in doing so.

For the past year I have attended most every SCI Clinic day at VA Medical Center Indianapolis, Indiana. Clinic visits are done on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings. I do visit the VAMC on other days depending on the needs of our veterans. As usual we are working closely with the Prosthetics and Physical Therapy clinics to better assess the needs of our members. In FY 2006 we picked up 46 new POA's of which 39 were target veterans. We had 4 inpatient visits, 163 outpatient (SCI Clinic) contacts of member/member eligible veterans, 68 office interviews and 2 field interviews during the reporting period. Overall for FY 2006 we had 5,360 individual contacts with clients of which 4,161 were target veterans.

During the last twelve months we have obtained over \$782,996.00 in benefits for veterans we represent of which \$724,781.00 went to our target clients. We have a total of 480 clients which consists of 331 member/member eligible veterans/dependents or survivors of members. We filed 343 claims of which 286 were for target clients.

During the fiscal year we attended the POW/MIA, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Women's Veterans Exposition, Veterans Appreciation Day at Golden Corral and joined with PVA's KY-IN Chapter for PVA Awareness Week at VAMC Indianapolis.

We have attended the monthly service officer meetings at the VA Medical Center Indianapolis, Indiana and the quarterly service officer meetings at the Northern Indiana Health Care System.

I attended the National Service Officers Continued Educational Training Program held in

Oklahoma City, OK from October 19, 2006 through October 26, 2006. I sat on the Employee Advisory Committee (EAC) this past year and was recently voted in as the assistant chair for the EAC when the present assistant chair moves up. Most recently I was assigned as the VISN 11 Liaison for PVA's Region III. I also assisted PVA by traveling and working our PVA Boston Office in August.

As always our office continues to attend the SCI Clinics and expand our clientele by performing outreach and assistance to both target and non-target veterans and their dependents within the State of Indiana.

Kentucky Service Officer's Report
SBA: Rickey Grant

FY 2006 Accomplishments: During FY 2006, the Louisville Service Office obtained 27 new POAs and 17 were target clients. This number should continue to rise as more outreach is done. We are in the process of developing an extensive outreach program to include the Louisville and Lexington areas.

FY 2006 Productively: During FY 2006 our total number of POAs has increased by 27. However, our quality of work remains to be very effective. The assignment of a new Senior Benefits Advocate will enhance our ability to move forward with our mission.

Members/Members Eligible 282 and non-members 154.

Total awards for FY 2006 were \$1,151,340.00 with \$768,858.00 were for members/members-eligible and total contacts for this period were 3,609.

We continue the visits to the Louisville SCI Clinic on Tuesday and in the future will be attending the Lexington SCI Clinic. This will allow us to provide better representation to our clients that attend those clinics on a face to face basis.

The Louisville Service Office continues to operate with Ricky L. Grant, Senior Benefits Advocate and Debby Burns, Senior Secretary. This past year Phil Marcum was appointed as National Field Director and has assumed those responsibilities.

Chapter Program Overview
Service Director: James Meyer

We donated money to the Annual Report 2006/5

- send a Wheelchair Trade Show i
- the Indiana POW/MIA Recognition Day,
- IN Military/Veterans Coalition,
- Special Olympics Indiana,
- Southeastern Indiana Independent Living Center,
- Veteran's Day Council to support Veteran's Day activities,
- parking for KY NSO & Secretary,
- Kids Wish Network,
- Louisville VAMC Stand Down,
- MS Clinic Louisville VAMC,
- Breaking Barriers Awards,
- IRCIL InclusionFest,
- Sparky Dogs to children in Iraq.

We donated money, time, and prosthetics to:

- PVA hardship cases,
- Veterans, their family, and others that did not qualify for VA or DVR assistance.

Sports

Director: Jim Green

2005-2006 may have been the most productive year ever in sports for the Kentucky-Indiana PVA. We would like to acknowledge and congratulate the Chapter's highest achievers.

George Simpson went to the American Wheelchair Bowling Association's 45th Annual National Bowling Tournament on June 12th and came home with the B Division National Championship. This is George's first National Championship and we are very proud of him.

John Harris finished the season in 8th place on the PVA BASS Tour. This is quite an accomplishment for his first year on the tour. John set the bar pretty high for himself and the other anglers in our chapter.

We had four participants; two quadriplegics and two paraplegics, attending the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG) which was held July 3rd - 8th in Anchorage, Alaska. Jim Green led the way with 3 Gold Medals in Shot-put,

Javelin, and Softball. Jim Burns received a Gold Medal in the 100 meter track event. Al Cummings received a Gold Medal in Weightlifting, a Silver Medal in the Power chair 220 and a Bronze Medal in the Motorized Rally. Mike Murphy received a Bronze Medal in Shot-put.

While we are very proud of our member's special accomplishments, the real accomplishment is getting out there and participating. These events are not set up strictly for the top veteran athletes. The majority of the participants are there to have a great time and meet some new friends. There are no expectations from the chapter for you to bring back medals or championships, only expectation for you to have fun and bring back wonderful memories and pictures.

We continued our target shooting with President Meyer. The guns, ammo and range fees are provided by the chapter so the only expense to you is the gas to get to the French Shooting Club at Ft. Knox, KY. One member, Al Cummings, attended the DAV Winter Sports Clinic in Aspen, CO. Al came back with lots of pictures and stories about what a great time he had at the clinic.

This year, we like to invite all our chapter members to join us for these annual events. You can contact the chapter office for a copy of the requirements for participation. Do yourself a favor and take advantage of the sports programs offered by the PVA. You will be glad you did. 12 years ago, Terry Sutton told me that if I ever went to the NVWG, I would never want to stop. Alaska was my 11th year in a row and I don't plan on ending that streak anytime soon.

Volunteers

Director: Vickie Marcum

The Volunteer Program runs from October 1 through September 30 of each year. This year our volunteers have been very active putting in 5,863 hours and traveling more than 44,720 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.

