



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Bay Area & Western Chapter

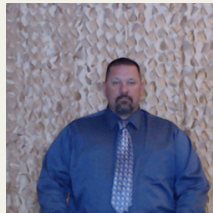
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Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area & Western Chapter, INC.



President's Message

WRITTEN BY REESE LEVASSEUR



Happy Holiday Season to my fellow veterans and their family and friends. Although we are still navigating through the COVID-19 Pandemic, we cannot let that affect the joys and happiness of the Holidays. This month is pretty busy for the Chapter. On Monday, November 2, 2020 the Chapter will be having a Virtual Fresno Membership Meeting. Although we cannot be there in person, the Chapter is excited to interact with our members and the SCI Staff from VA Central California Health Care System.

Due to restrictions at VA Palo Alto Health Care System, the Chapter's Veteran Day Luncheon on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 will be for the SCI inpatient veterans and the SCI Staff. The SCI Center is still at 40% and visitors and veterans without appointments will not be allowed on the unit.

The Chapter is excited to have its first Virtual Bingo Clinic on Friday, November 13, 2020. Prizes will be given to winners. If you are interested, please contact Executive Director Kory Amaral at amaral@bawpva.org or call the office at (650) 858 - 3936.

The Annual Banquet at the Hyatt Regency Santa Clara has been cancelled for 2020. There will be a Virtual Banquet to celebrate all award winners on Wednesday, November 18, 2020.

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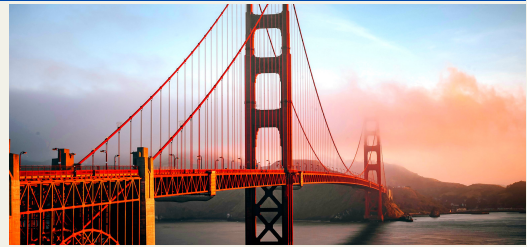
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Paralyzed Veterans of America

National PVA's Sports Update

WRITTEN BY NATIONAL PVA SPORTS & RECREATION TEAM IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



NOVEMBER SPORTS & RECREATION

SPIN SESSION with special guest speakers
Monday - Saturday each week
Email HANDCYCLING@PVA.ORG for times and registration

BOOK CLUB sign up to read "Quiet Strength: The Principles, Practices, and Priorities of a Winning Life" by Tony Dungy
Meeting Friday Nov 13 1pm EST
[Click to Register](#)

E-SPORTS PRACTICE Led by Travis Greaves - New Game: Apex Legends
Friday Nov 20 2pm EST
[Click to Register](#)

FAMILY INCLUSIVE DANCE CLASS Led by - Wheelchair Dancers Org
Thursdays Nov 6, 13, & 20 7:30pm EST
[Click to Register](#)

VIRTUAL DANCE IT OUT ADAPTIVE FITNESS Led by - Wheelchair Dancers Org
Fridays Nov 7, 14, & 21 12:30pm EST
[Click to Register](#)

ADAPTIVE YOGA Led by Dr. Audrey Lee
Every Monday, Wednesday, Saturday 11am EST (No classes Thanksgiving week)
[Click to Register](#)

PVA VIRTUAL CAR SHOW
Cars displayed on Facebook Nov 2 to Nov 5, Awards announced Nov 6
[Click here](#)

Virtual Nutrition Led by Dr. Audrey Lee
Thursday Nov 12 2pm EST
[Click to Register](#)

Air Guns 104 Led by John Arbino
Thursdays Nov 5 & Nov 12 2pm EST



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Check out PVA.ORG/SPORTS for more!

November Calendar

FRESNO MEMBERSHIP MEETING
NOVEMBER 2

SCI PEER SUPPORT
NOVEMBER 4

VETERANS DAY LUNCHEON
NOVEMBER 10

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
NOVEMBER 10

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
NOVEMBER 10

VETERANS DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)
NOVEMBER 11

VIRTUAL BINGO CLINIC
NOVEMBER 13

VIRTUAL BANQUET
NOVEMBER 18

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Goods Inspiring Veterans Everywhere (GIVE) Program

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA AND THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA & WESTERN CHAPTER

The Chapter is hosting a Clothing Drive in the Palo Alto, CA Office. The Chapter is looking to the community to donate lightly used clothing and other items that will directly benefit a veteran. Through the GIVE Program, we would love to expand the program by bringing in more funds for our veterans.

Clothing Donation Program - GIVE
<https://www.pva.org/ways-to-give/g-i-v-e-clothing-donation/>

Wheels Helping Warriors (WHW) Program

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA AND THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA & WESTERN CHAPTER

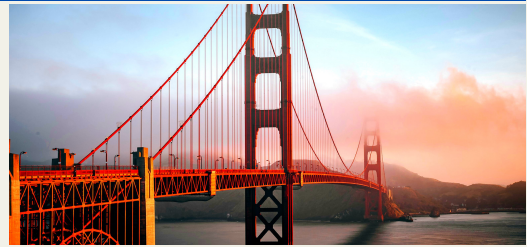
Are you tired of having too many cars or is your car getting old and you are looking to donate it? The Wheels Helping Warriors Program is a program in which we accept vehicles and the proceeds go to our veterans. The process is very simple and veterans from Northern California will benefit from the donation.

Vehicle Donation Program - WHW
<https://pva.careasy.org/HOME.html>



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National PVA's Washington Update

WRITTEN BY NATIONAL PVA'S GOVERNEMENT RELATIONS TEAM IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



Senate Veterans' Affairs Holds MISSION Act Hearing

On October 21, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee held a hearing entitled, "VA MISSION Act: Assessing Progress Implementing Title I." Witnesses included representatives from OptumServe, TriWest, and the Elizabeth Dole Foundation. VA was invited to participate in the hearing, but chose not to. The Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee were very disappointed with VA's decision and noted the importance of having them participate in the dialog about implementation of the MISSION Act. Much of the testimony provided and the questions that followed focused on implementation of the community care program and the expansion of caregiver supports to older veterans. Specific concerns included the length of time it was taking to schedule appointments with community providers; the timeliness of getting community providers paid; the robustness of community provider networks; and the potential for VA to remove caregivers from the recently expanded caregiver program, particularly when post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury is involved. Watch the hearing [here](#).

Department of Transportation Draft Accessibility Strategic Plan

On October 15, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) released the final summary report from a national online dialogue hosted

by DOT to provide an innovative opportunity for transportation providers, users, and experts, along with disability advocacy organizations, and other stakeholders, to play a key role in ensuring transportation access for passengers with disabilities.

The dialogue was open for ideas, comments, and votes from July 30 through August 23.

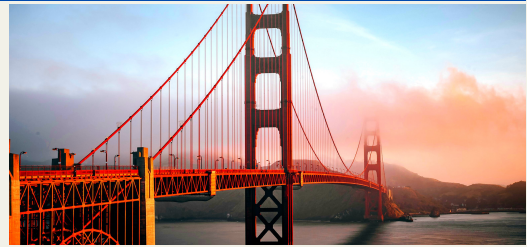
During the national online dialogue, 1,123 stakeholders visited the dialogue and, in addition to providing feedback on the overall framework, shared ideas on five specific goals including: (1) remove unnecessary barriers; (2) enhance opportunities for

people with disabilities to walk, roll, cycle, & use micro mobility; (3) improve access for individuals with disabilities to passenger & commercial vehicles; (4) support the development and diversification of the public transit systems; and (5) advance accessible intercity transportation systems. Moving forward, DOT will use the results of the online dialogue to inform policy and when drafting the final version of the strategic plan that will be published

later this year.

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SCI Peer Support

IN SPONSORSHIP WITH THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA,
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SCI PEER SUPPORT LUNCHEON

Please join us every **FIRST WEDNESDAY** of the month in the SCI Dining Hall at 1200 for a catered lunch and peer support activity.

This is a monthly program designed for SCI veterans to gather together and connect in a social and relaxed environment, socially distanced of course!

If you cannot attend in person, or if group is at capacity, you can call into the VANTS line or ZOOM from your room or homes.

1-800-767-1750 Access Code: 87322#

ZOOM: Meeting ID: 747 6981 6888 Passcode: **VASCI2020**

Important Links

[PATIENT EDUCATION](#)
[REVIEW PAST PATIENT](#)
[EDUCATION SESSIONS](#)
[AND FIND OUT HOW TO](#)
[PARTICIPATE](#)

[AIR ACCESS 30](#)
[SHARE STORIES ABOUT](#)
[YOUR AIR TRAVEL](#)
[EXPERIENCES AS A](#)
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About Us

THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA & WESTERN CHAPTER, INC.

The Bay Area & Western PVA Chapter (BAWPVA) is a nonprofit, Veterans service organization located in Palo Alto, CA. The Bay Area & Western PVA Chapter serves spinal cord injured and/or dysfunction Veterans located in Northern California and the Pacific Islands. The Bay Area & Western PVA Chapter is one of 33 chapters of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) located across the United States. Currently, the Bay Area & Western PVA Chapter has around 500 members.

The Bay Area & Western PVA Chapter (BAWPVA) services provide direct support to the chapter's programs. The Bay Area & Western PVA Chapter sponsors various events and adaptive sports clinics at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System in Palo Alto, CA, VA Northern California Health Care System, VA Central California Health Care System, VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System, and VA Pacific Islands Health Care System.

If you are interested in membership, volunteering, or donating please contact us today.

Our office is located at:

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Palo Alto, CA 94304
Our Mailing Address is:

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Palo Alto, CA 94304-0027

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administration@bawpva.org

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bawpva.org

