



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Bay Area & Western Chapter

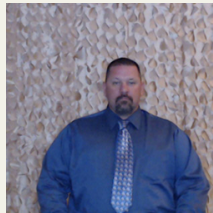
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Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area & Western Chapter, INC.



President's Message

WRITTEN BY REESE LEVASSEUR



As we continue into the new year, 2021 allows us the opportunity to grow and recover from all the events last year. Last year was hard for all of us, but the Chapter is excited to move into 2021 with a positive attitude. Just a reminder that there will be elections this year for the Board of Directors. Please follow this link to learn more: http://www.bawpva.org/_fileCabinet/vol35no3.pdf. The deadline to submit a written statement and bio is March 9, 2021. Please contact the office at (650) 858 - 3936 if you have any questions.

Due to restrictions at VA Palo Alto Health Care System, the Chapter's events will be held virtually. The SCI Center is still at 40% and visitors and veterans without appointments will not be allowed on the unit. A lot of veterans have been reaching out to the Chapter in regards to vaccines. Vaccines are still limited, but the Chapter and National PVA are working with the VA to ensure that all SCI/D veterans are considered high priority. We will let you know when we have more information. I recommend signing up for vaccine updates so the VA can contact you when the vaccine comes available to you. Please visit <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/> for more information.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has definitely left the world in chaos, but some research is being done that may help our SCI/D veterans. Nothing has been proven, but please follow this link for an interesting read: <https://www.fiercebiotech.com/research/biontech-ceo-turns-covid-19-vaccine-s-mrna-tech-against-multiple-sclerosis>.

In This Issue

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

**NATIONAL PVA'S SPORTS
UPDATE**

**GOODS INSPIRING
VETERANS EVERYWHERE
(GIVE) AND WHEELS
HELPING WARRIORS
(WHW) PROGRAMS**

**NATIONAL PVA'S
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
WASHINGTON UPDATE**

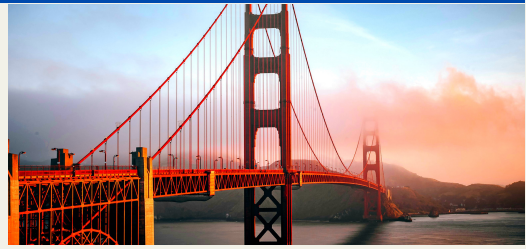
PEER SUPPORT

PIZZA NIGHT

ABOUT US

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Paralyzed Veterans of America

National PVA's Sports Update

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



FEBRUARY SPORTS & RECREATION

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

ADAPTIVE YOGA Led by Dr. Audrey Lee
Every Monday & Wednesday @ 2pm EST, Saturdays @ 11am EST
[Click to Register](#)

E-SPORTS MEET UP - Apex Legends!
Led by Travis Greaves
[Click to Join our Discord](#)
or Email for Details- TravisG@pva.org

Virtual Nutrition Led by Dr. Audrey Lee
Thursday Feb 11 @ 3pm EST
[Click to Register](#)

AIR RIFLE 105 Led by John Arbino
Last session Thurs Feb 4 @ 3pm
[Click to Register](#)

PVA RACING HIGH PERFORMANCE CAMP
Led by Jody Shiflett & John Arbino
Feb 1 - Feb 6 @ 12pm
Contact HANDCYCLING@PVA.ORG if interested!

AUTHOR WEBINAR - Wheels of Courage
with David Davis Feb 4 @ 1pm
[Click to Register](#)

BOCCIA 103 Led by John Arbino
Feb 18, Feb 25, & March 4 @ 3pm
[Click to Register](#)



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Check out PVA.ORG/SPORTS for more!

February Calendar

[SCI PEER SUPPORT](#)
[FEBRUARY 3](#)

[BOARD OF DIRECTORS](#)
[MEETING](#)
[FEBRUARY 9](#)

[PIZZA NIGHT \(INPATIENTS\)](#)
[FEBRUARY 9](#)

[PRESIDENT'S DAY \(OFFICE](#)
[CLOSED\)](#)
[FEBRUARY 15](#)

[VIRTUAL BINGO CLINIC](#)
[FEBRUARY 24](#)

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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, INC.

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.

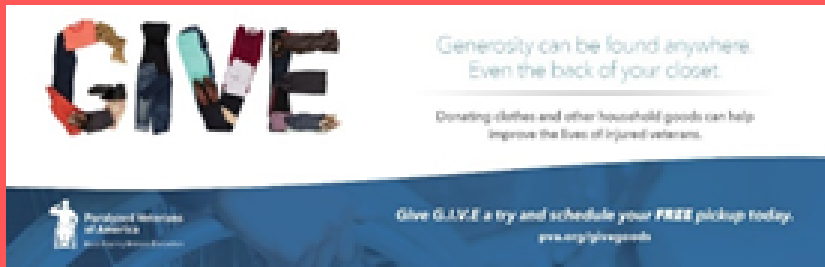
Clothing Donation Program - GIVE
<https://www.pva.org/ways-to-give/g-i-v-e-clothing-donation/>

Wheels Helping Warriors (WHW) Program

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

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 GOVERNMENT RELATIONS TEAM IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



Ways and Means Leadership Issues Policy Framework to Guide Actions in 117th Congress

On January 11, Ways and Means Chairman Richard Neal (D-MA) released a legislative framework for how the Committee will “address the role that racism, ableism, and other social, structural, and political determinants have in perpetuating health and economic inequity in the United States.” As one of the major committees in Congress, Ways and Means has jurisdiction over a wide spectrum of policies ranging from workforce, business and health care tax incentives to Social Security to economic stimulus initiatives. Based on a Committee report titled “Something Must Change: Inequities in U.S. Policy and Society,” the framework lays out policy priorities to steer the Committee’s work in the 117th Congress.

While the framework by its nature is broad and general in its outline of policies, it does touch on a number of issues of interest to PVA and its members. Among these are:

- Ensure technological advancements do not leave underserved communities behind by supporting efforts to
 - revisit the role of algorithms in clinical decision tools that rely on race, ethnicity, or other non-medical factors in assessing patients and systemic bias vulnerabilities related to the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in health payment and delivery
 - accommodate needs for assistive technologies and telehealth for individuals living with disabilities;
- Increase accessibility and reasonable accommodations within health care facilities so people with disabilities have better access to diagnostics, care, and treatment;
- Extend the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, which provides financial support for businesses that hire workers who are disproportionately likely to have difficulty finding a place in the workforce;
- Provide job services and supports targeted to vulnerable populations and focused on long-term career advancement, not just employment;
- Strengthen and improve Social Security benefits, particularly for low-wage workers; and
- Protect Social Security disability benefits from harmful regulations and other attacks designed to reduce access to benefits.

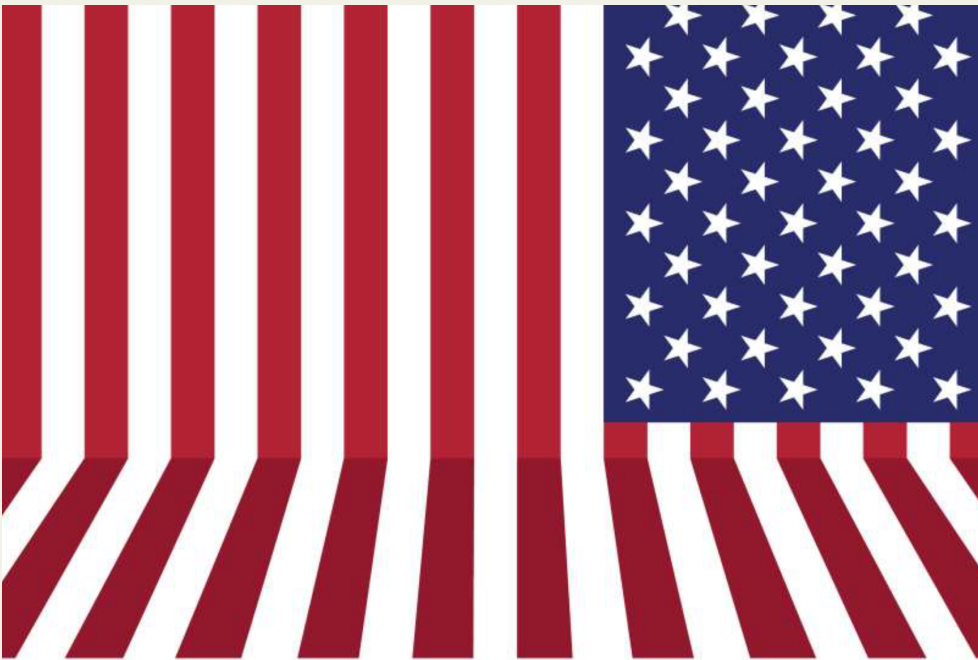
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SCI Peer Support

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 12:00 PM PDT 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.

ZOOM Dial: 1-669-900-9128 Meeting ID: 835 1426 6166 Access Code: 9750449
ZOOM Online: Meeting ID: 835 1426 6166 Passcode: SCIPPEER
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83514266166?pwd=RzE3dzFKaE5wVUJadGdualdQUmM4Zz09>

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](#)
[PASSENGER WITH A](#)
[DISABILITY](#)

[PUBLICATIONS](#)
[VIEW CHAPTER](#)
[NEWSLETTERS,](#)
[ANNUAL REPORTS, PVA](#)
[PUBLICATIONS](#)

[COVID-19 RESOURCES](#)
[VIEW NATIONAL](#)
[PVA'S RESOURCES AND](#)
[UPDATES ON COVID-19](#)



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



Pizza Night

IN SPONSORSHIP WITH THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA,
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Pizza Night



Tuesday, February 9, 2021

PVA Office Room E-118

Pick Up at 5:00 PM



Sponsored by:
**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**
Bay Area & Western Chapter

Social distancing meet with other members of Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area & Western Chapter.

Find out what's going on with your Chapter and about upcoming events.

Pizza, pasta, salad, and beverages will be served.

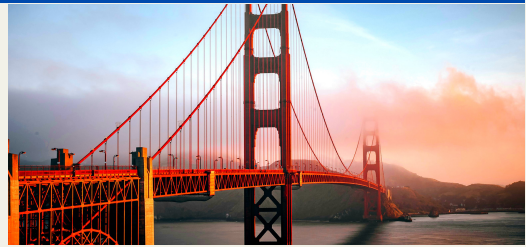
For more information contact Kory Amaral at x65308 or email amaral@bawpva.org

Veterans with sitting restrictions will be served at bedside.



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About Us

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

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

The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter, INC. (BAWPVA) services provide direct support to the chapter's programs. BAWPVA 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:

3801 Miranda Ave.

Building 7 Rm. E-118

Palo Alto, CA 94304

Our Mailing Address is:

P.O. Box 27

Palo Alto, CA 94304-0027

Email:

administration@bawpva.org

Website:

bawpva.org

