



Bay Area & Western Chapter

E-BRIDGE

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



President's Message

WRITTEN BY REESE LEVASSEUR



Hello everyone! Just a reminder that the ballots for the Elections are due on Friday, May 7, 2021. The Election results will be announced at the May 11, 2021 Board of Director's Meeting. Thank you everyone who has submitted the ballots so far.

Due to restrictions at VA Palo Alto Health Care System, the Chapter's events will be held virtually in May 2021. The SCI/D Center is still at 40% and visitors and veterans without appointments will not be allowed on the unit. The office is also closed until further notice to protect the staff and Board of Directors.

The Chapter is slowly planning events for Summer 2021. We will be having a series of DISC Golf clinics in the community to help prepare athletes for the National Veteran Wheelchair Games. The clinics are for all members and families. The Chapter encourages you to come to a clinic to receive Chapter updates. Food will be provided. Please refer to Page 6 for more details.

The Annual Banquet is scheduled for Saturday, July 10, 2021 at the the Hyatt Regency Santa Clara. There are strict restrictions in place put on by the hotel and the Chapter. All guests need to be vaccinated or need to take a COVID-19 test within 3 days of the event showing a negative result. If you are interested in attending, please call the office at (650) 858 - 3936 or email Executive Director Kory Amaral at amaral@bawpva.org. Capacity will be limited. The Banquet is for PVA members and SCI staff.

We will get through this soon, but please if you have any issues or concerns, reach out to the office.

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



SCI Meet and Greet

IN SPONSORSHIP WITH THE
PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA & WESTERN
CHAPTER, INC. AND THE SCI CENTER IN PALO ALTO

LIVING WITH A SPINAL CORD INJURY



SCI Monthly Meet & Greet

Please join us the FIRST WEDNESDAY of the month in the SCI Dining Room 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 ZOOM from your room or home.

ZOOM Dial: 1-669-900-9128 Meeting ID: 835 1426 6166

Access Code: 9750449

ZOOM Online: Meeting ID: 835 1426 6166

Passcode: SCIPEER

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83514266166?pwd=RzE3dzFKaE5wVUJadGdualdQUnM4Zz09>

May Calendar

SCI MEET AND GREET
MAY 5

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING
MAY 11

ANNUAL CONVENTION
MAY 17 - 23

VIRTUAL BINGO CLINIC
MAY 26

VIRTUAL SCI MEMORIAL
MAY 27

MEMORIAL DAY (OFFICE
CLOSED)
MAY 31

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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.

GAO Releases Report on Airport Accessibility

Air travel for people with disabilities can be very challenging for a variety of reasons, including access problems at airports. In our nation's airports, people with disabilities can face infrastructure, information, and customer service barriers. For example, complex terminal layouts and long distances between gates can be hard to navigate. Additionally, travel information is not always available in a format that is accessible to all.

According to stakeholders, while no solution meets all needs, a number of practices can help reduce or eliminate some of these barriers to equal access at airports. For example, some selected airports use external disability community and passenger groups to proactively engage in identifying barriers and developing solutions. Other airports have implemented technology-based solutions, such as mobile phone applications to make airport navigation easier.

The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 included a requirement for the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to review leading airport accessibility practices for passengers with disabilities, as well as required training for airline and contract service personnel who assist these passengers throughout the airport. Earlier this month, GAO released the report, *Passengers with Disabilities: Airport Accessibility Barriers and Practices and DOT's Oversight of Airlines' Disability-Related Training*. The report includes an examination of stakeholder-identified barriers that passengers with disabilities face when accessing airport facilities, accessibility practices to assist passengers with disabilities, and the efficacy of the Department of Transportation's (DOT) oversight of airlines' disability-related training.

As part of its review, GAO examined relevant federal laws, regulations, DOT documents, literature, as well as information describing disability training provided by selected airlines and contractors. GAO also interviewed a sample of stakeholders, including those at 16 U.S. airports selected based on size and geography, eight large and low-cost domestic airlines selected based on the greatest number of disability-related passenger complaints and enplanements, and six aviation service contractors working for those airlines. GAO also conducted interviews with DOT officials and 10 disability advocacy organizations, including PVA.

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SCI Memorial

IN SPONSORSHIP WITH THE
PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA & WESTERN
CHAPTER, INC. AND THE SCI CENTER IN PALO ALTO



SCI Memorial Service
Thursday, May 27, 2021
2:30 PM
Virtual Memorial - Zoom

- *SCI Staff and Inpatients, please join us in the Spinal Cord Injury Center's Dining Room to honor the lives of the SCI/D veterans who have passed away within the past 2 years. Zoom will be available for individuals at home and VA Staff in other departments.*
- *We will fondly remember our fallen SCI/D veterans with their peers and caregivers.*
 - *The ceremony will begin at 2:30pm followed by light refreshments for SCI Staff and Inpatients.*
- *Please contact the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area & Western Chapter's Executive Director Kory Amaral for more details (amaral@bawpva.org, kory.amaral2@va.gov, x65308).*

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](#)

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DISC Golf Clinics

IN SPONSORSHIP WITH THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA,
BAY AREA & WESTERN CHAPTER, INC. AND SCI RECREATION
THERAPY IN PALO ALTO

DISC Golf Series



Thursday, June 10, 2021

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Thursday, June 24, 2021

11:00 am — 2:00 pm

Location: TBA

Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area & Western Chapter and SCI Recreation Therapy would like to invite all PVA Members and families to join us for a DISC Golf Series . This is an opportunity to connect with chapter representatives and receive updates, but the most important thing is to have fun!

RSVP to BAWPVA
1 (800) 273-6789 or
amaral@bawpva.org



Paralyzed Veterans
of America
Bay Area & Western Chapter



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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 approximately 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.

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