



Bay Area & Western Chapter

E-BRIDGE

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



President's Message

WRITTEN BY REESE LEVASSEUR



As we enter the Holiday Season, I just wanted to say I am grateful for all of you. We will get through all this soon, but we must keep trekking forward.

This month is Veterans Day. We have some events to celebrate the veterans who served our wonder nation. Due to restrictions at VA Palo Alto Health Care System, the Chapter's events will mostly be held virtually in November 2021 or will be in person for inpatients. There will be a Veterans Day Luncheon on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 for inpatients and VA Palo Alto SCI/D Center's staff. The Chapter will once again be attending the Veterans Day Parade in San Jose, CA on November 11, 2021. There will be over 20,000 individuals involved in the event. If you are interested in attending, please contact Kory Amaral at amaral@bawpva.org or (650) 858-3936.

I wanted to say thank you to all the Fresno members who joined us on October 28, 2021 for a movie and dinner. We appreciate your commitment to PVA and we look forward to future events.

We have some exciting news! National PVA is excited to announce the launch of a new Facebook group, [PVA Women Empowered!](#) The group, which is led by our female PVA members, was created in response to demand for a space exclusively for female members. It is a live forum for female PVA members to connect, share tips, obtain resources, and more.

Please if you need anything, do not hesitate to reach out. We are here for you.

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



Veterans Day Parade

IN SPONSORSHIP WITH THE
PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA'S BAY AREA & WESTERN
CHAPTER AND VA PALO ALTO SCI/D CENTER'S RECREATION
THERAPY



San Jose Veterans Day Parade

Who: PVA Members & SCI/D Veterans

**When: Thursday, November 11, 2021
12:00-2:00pm**

Where: Downtown San Jose

Parade Route: One mile -- Start near the SAP Center on Santa Clara Street and proceed east on Santa Clara Street, turn right onto Market Street



**RSVP to BAWPVA
By November 1, 2021
1 (800) 273-6789 or
amaral@bawpva.org**

November Calendar

VETERANS DAY LUNCHEON
(INPATIENTS)
NOVEMBER 9

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING
NOVEMBER 9

VETERANS DAY PARADE
NOVEMBER 11

NATIONAL PVA SITE VISIT
PALO ALTO CHAPTER
MEETING
NOVEMBER 15

BINGO & PIZZA NIGHT
NOVEMBER 18

THANKSGIVING BREAK
NOVEMBER 25-26

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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.

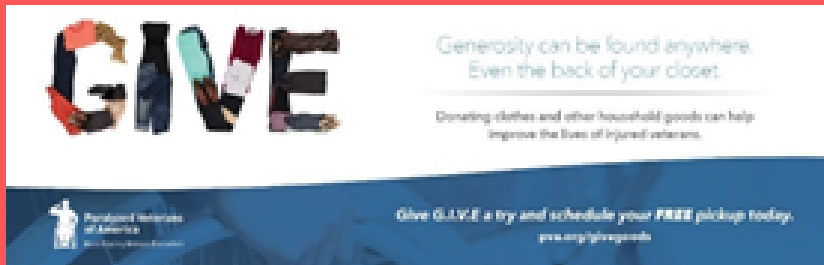
Clothing Donation Program - GIVE
<https://www.pva.org/ways-to-give/g-i-v-e-clothing-donation/>

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.

Justice for ALS Veterans Act of 2021 Introduced in House

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, is a progressive nervous system disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, causing loss of muscle control. In 2008, VA changed its benefits criteria to include ALS as a presumptive service-connected disease. Survivors of veterans with the disease are eligible to receive VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). Under current law, a higher rate of compensation known as the “DIC kicker” can be paid to surviving spouses of veterans who had service-connected disabilities rated as totally disabling for a continuous period of at least eight years immediately preceding their death. However, because the average life expectancy for a person with ALS is two to five years, most spouses of deceased veterans with ALS do not qualify for this additional benefit given the eight-year requirement. To correct this, Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) recently introduced H.R. 5607, the Justice for ALS Veterans Act of 2021, which would extend increased DIC to the surviving spouse of a veteran who dies from ALS regardless of how long the veteran had such disease prior to death. H.R. 5607 was one of several bills examined during a recent House Veterans’ Affairs Committee hearing. In its statement for the record, PVA noted that VA already recognizes ALS as a presumptive service-connected disease, and due to its progressive nature, automatically rates any diagnosed veteran at 100 percent once service connected. We also pointed out that VA’s current policy fails to recognize the significant sacrifices these veterans and their families have made for this country. PVA strongly endorses this legislation and urges Congress to pass it as quickly as possible.

You are invited to join a webinar on November 10 at 1:00 p.m. ET entitled, “Federal Policy Priorities on Disability Employment: NDEAM (National Disability Employment Awareness Month) 2021 and Beyond.” This webinar will feature a host of high-level federal leaders reflecting on their work, their priorities, and their hopes for the months ahead and how to link greater inclusion, diversity, and equity to the economic recovery of America. [Register here.](#)

·On November 9 and November 16, at 12:00 p.m. ET, the U.S Department of Transportation (USDOT) will host virtual public meetings related to the Justice40 Initiative. During these interactive meetings, you will hear from USDOT leaders about the Justice40 Initiative and be asked for input on it. Advanced registration is required ([Register for session #1](#), [Register for session #2](#)).

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National PVA Site Visit Chapter Meeting Palo Alto

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



Bay Area & Western Chapter

National PVA Site Visit Chapter Meeting Palo Alto

Who: PVA Members & SCI/D Veterans

When: Monday, November 15, 2021
1:00 pm PDT

Where: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88435095105?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88435095105?pwd=YXRqQXg1Ni9qL1RTdVhWUGJ2VkcyUT09)
[pwd=YXRqQXg1Ni9qL1RTdVhWUGJ2VkcyUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88435095105?pwd=YXRqQXg1Ni9qL1RTdVhWUGJ2VkcyUT09)

Meeting ID: 884 3509 5105
Passcode: 136754

Dial by your location
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Why: Discuss the care relieved at VA Palo Alto Health Care System's SCI/D Center

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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National PVA Sports

IN SPONSORSHIP WITH NATIONAL PVA'S SPORTS TEAM IN WASHINGTON, D.C. AND PVA CHAPTERS



ANNUAL AIR RIFLE & AIR PISTOL PROGRAM

Cal-Diego Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament
December 3, 2021
Camp Pendleton
Camp Pendleton, CA

Wisconsin Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament
March 11-12, 2022
Milwaukee Tech Area College
Milwaukee, WI

Mid-Atlantic Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament
March 2022 (Dates TBD)
Colonial Shooting Academy
Richmond, VA

Buckeye Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament *
April 14-16, 2022
Spire Institute
Geneva, OH
*Buckeye Wheelchair Games

PVA BOATING/FISHING TOUR

Mid-America Bass Tournament
September 10-12, 2021
Lake Eufaula
Eufaula, OK

Vaughan Bass Tournament
October 8-10, 2021
The Lakes of Egypt
Marion, IL

Southeastern Bass Tournament
October 15-17, 2021
Thurmond/Clarks Hill Lake
Evans, GA

Florida Gulf Coast Bass Tournament
April 1-3, 2022
Lake Toho
Kissimmee, FL

Kentucky-Indiana Bass Tournament
April 22-24, 2022
Lake Barkley
Kuttawa, KY

Mid-Atlantic Bass Tournament
June 10-12, 2022
James & Appomattox Rivers
Hopewell, VA

Capital Clash Bass Tournament
June 17-19, 2022
Potomac River
Waldorf, MD

ANNUAL PVA/NWPA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES

Buckeye Billiards Tournament
July 17-18, 2021
8 Ball Sports Bar & Billiards
Columbus, OH

Mid-South Billiards Tournament
October 15-16, 2021
Clicks Billiards
Memphis, TN

Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament
March 18-20, 2022
Diamond Billiards
Midlothian, VA

ANNUAL PVA/AWBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES

Great Plains Bowling Tournament
July 29-August 1, 2021
Thunderbowl
Council Bluffs, IA

Mid-Atlantic Bowling Tournament
September 24-26, 2021
Bowl America
Midlothian, VA

Florida Gulf Coast Bowling Tourn.
February 23-25, 2022
Pin Chasers
Tampa, FL

Vaughan Bowling Tournament
April 2022 (Dates TBD)
Bowlero
Romeoville, IL

PVA NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS CIRCUIT

North Central Trapshoot
September 11-12, 2021
Crooks Gun Club
Sioux Falls, SD

Cal-Diego Trapshoot
March 25-27, 2022
Redlands Shooting Park
Redlands, CA

Nevada Trapshoot
April 1-3, 2022
Clark County Shooting Park
Las Vegas, NV

Florida Gulf Coast Trapshoot
May 13-15, 2022
Silver Dollar Trap Club
Odessa, FL

Vaughan Trapshoot
June 3-5, 2022
St. Charles Sportsmen's Club
Elburn, IL

Wisconsin Trapshoot
June 10-12, 2022
Brown County Sportsman Club
Green Bay, WI

Iowa Shooting Trapshoot *
June 17-19, 2022
Otter Creek Sportsman Club
Cedar Rapids, IA
*Year-End Tournament

Mid-Atlantic Trapshoot
(Dates TBD)
Conservation Park of Virginia
Charles City, VA

BOCCIA

KY-IN Boccia Tournament
July 17-18, 2021
Indianapolis, IN

KY-IN Boccia Tournament
September 25-26, 2021
Bowling Green, KY

Bayou Boccia Tournament
February 11-12, 2022
Gulfport, MS

Buckeye Boccia Tournament *
April 14-16, 2022
Geneva, OH
*Buckeye Wheelchair Games

Mid-Atlantic Boccia Tournament
May 2022 (Dates TBD)
Richmond, VA

Vaughan Boccia Tournament
(Dates TBD)
Carol Stream, IL

HANDCYCLING

PVAR High Performance Camp
January 2022 (Dates TBD)
Huntsville, AL

Top End Euro-American HC Champs
February 2022 (Dates TBD)
Gainesville, FL

Valley of the Sun
February 2022 (Dates TBD)
Phoenix, AZ

Museum of Aviation Marathon
February 2022 (Dates TBD)
Warner Robins, GA

Echelon Racing League ToAD Virtual
Criterion Races
March 2022 (Dates TBD)

Off-Road Spring Expo
April 2022 (Dates TBD)
Chesterfield, VA

Redlands Cycling Classic
April 2022 (Dates TBD)
Redlands, CA

Gettysburg Marathon
April 2022 (Dates TBD)
Gettysburg, PA

Tour of America's Dairylands
June 2022 (Dates TBD)
Milwaukee, WI

Wichita Omnium
June 2022 (Dates TBD)
Wichita, KS

NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES



July 7-12, 2022
Tempe, AZ

Updated 10/14/21

For more information: pva.org/sports

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VA Palo Alto SCI/D Center's Outpatient Update

WRITTEN BY THE VA PALO ALTO SCI/D CENTER'S OUTPATIENT TEAM



SCI/D Outpatient Clinic

VA Palo Alto - Building 7 Room F-143
650-493-5000 x65871

SPECIALTY CLINICS

- ACUPUNCTURE
- CHIROPRACTIC
- PSYCHOLOGY
- SCI CLINIC
- INTEGRATED EVALUATION
- UPPER EXTREMITY
- TELEHEALTH
- SEXUALITY
- FUNCTIONAL EXTREMITY
- OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
- PHYSICAL THERAPY
- UROLOGY
- URODYNAMICS STUDY
- EMG
- BOWEL AND BLADDER
- WOUND
- PLASTICS

To best serve our Veterans in our SCI Outpatient Clinic – we ask for your assistance with following mandates regarding masking and visitors:

Masking and Visitor Requirements:

All patients and VA employees are mandated to wear a mask at all times while on the Palo Alto campus. If you refuse to wear a mask you will not be seen. There are no exceptions. Only approved visitors can come with a patient to an appointment. If you need assistance, there are SCI/D clinic nurses who can assure your needs are met during the appointment.

Please check in AND check out with the scheduler especially after your Annual Exam; make sure you get an appointment on your way out as appointments are not made automatically. Thank you

SPECIAL MODE TRANSPORT

Review your Special Mode Transport (SMT) expiration dates – when you receive a letter of expiration, please notify clinic RN as soon as possible to resubmit transportation consult
Clinic x65871 Navarre (833) 628-2773 for pick up/drop off

GURNEY TRANSFER APPOINTMENTS

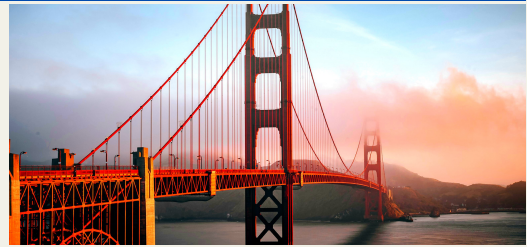
For appointments where Veterans need to be transferred from wheelchair to gurney by nursing staff (CT, MRI etc.) – please call and schedule an RN-TRANSFER Appointment at least 2 weeks in advance. **Scheduling x65871**

DEFENDER'S LODGE

Defender's Lodge is available for Veteran's who live over 50 miles from the hospital – Consults can be placed only 3-4 days prior, must provide evidence of either a negative COVID test within 72 hours prior to checking-in or be fully vaccinated (2 weeks past last vaccine in series). Failure to do so will result in your not being able to stay at the Defender's Lodge. **Social Work x65340**

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Executive Director's Message

WRITTEN BY KORY AMARAL



I normally do not write a report in the *E-Bridge*, but I wanted to take the time to acknowledge the Colonial PVA Chapter for their dedication and commitment to their members and caregivers. I was awarded the chance to attend the Maryland Caregiver & Member Get Away in September 2021. I was there as a volunteer and observer for the event to learn how we can replicate the event for PVA caregivers and members in California.

The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter, INC (BAWPVA) believes the Sports & Recreation Program is key for our members to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle. The COVID-19 Pandemic has put a strain on all of us, but especially our veterans who were forced to stay home. We must adapt our Sports & Recreation Program and the Maryland Caregiver & Member Get Away allowed our caregivers and members to enjoy an event outside their homes with COVID-19 protocols in place.

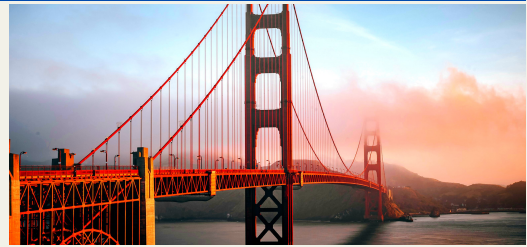
The Maryland Caregiver & Member Get Away was a 2 day event that had many opportunities for guests to attend activities in which they desired. The first day was check in and a luau party to honor all the attendees. I even had the chance to perform a Hawaiian dance for the guests. It was a great pleasure to entertain the caregivers and members. The second day had many sport/recreation events including: fishing, yoga, art, bowling, movie night and more. I was the only individual that did not catch a fish! I guess I need to leave the fishing to the pros.

Thank you Jo Ann, Brian, Ann, Matt and the other leaders at the Colonial PVA Chapter for inviting and supporting me in this event. I look forward to future events. I know this event will be remembered for a long time by all who attended.



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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, Northern Nevada 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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Palo Alto, CA 94304

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