



Bay Area & Western Chapter

E-BRIDGE

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



President's Message

WRITTEN BY REESE LEVASSEUR



Happy Holidays to my fellow veterans, VA staff, friends, family and more. I know we are still working through the COVID-19 Pandemic, but I hope we can all celebrate the Holidays in a new way. The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter, INC. (BAWPVA) will have Holiday events at VA Palo Alto Health Care System's SCI/D Center because we know our veterans may not have anyone to celebrate with. The office will be closed from December 20-31, 2021 to give our staff a much-needed break.

Due to restrictions at VA Palo Alto Health Care System, the Chapter's events will mostly be held virtually in December 2021 or will be in person for inpatients. There will be a Winter Luncheon and Dinner on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 for inpatients and VA Palo Alto SCI/D Center's staff.

There is still a vacancy of a National Service Officer (NSO) in Palo Alto. If you need to speak with an NSO, please join us on December 14, 2021 at 11:30 AM via Zoom. See page 2 for more information. There will be temporary coverage in Palo Alto in the New Year, but if you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out and we will connect you with someone.

I know mental health is very important and many of our veterans are experiencing loneliness. BAWPVA will start our Peer Support Mentoring Program - Education and Lunch again on Friday, January 28, 2022.

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

In This Issue

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER CHAT

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

NATIONAL PVA'S GOVERNMENT RELATIONS WASHINGTON UPDATE

NATIONAL PVA'S VETERANS RESOURCE PROGRAM UPDATE

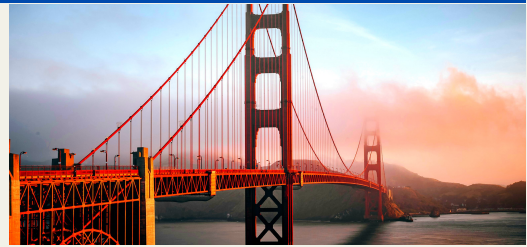
NATIONAL PVA'S SPORTS UPDATE

VA PALO ALTO SCI/D CENTER'S OUTPATIENT UPDATE

ABOUT US

E-BRIDGE

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



National Service Officer Monthly Chat

IN SPONSORSHIP WITH THE
PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA'S BAY AREA & WESTERN
CHAPTER AND NATIONAL PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

Monthly Chat with your National Service Officer (NSO)

Who: PVA Members &
SCI/D Veterans

When: Second Tuesday of the
Month
11:30am -1:00pm

Where: Virtual (Zoom)
Meeting ID: 867 9150 1025
Passcode: 370759
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86791501025?
pwd=OHJ1KzNoVi9XR0FoSHNvVHRkcFRUZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86791501025?pwd=OHJ1KzNoVi9XR0FoSHNvVHRkcFRUZz09)

Why: To receive benefit updates
and to ask questions



December Calendar

WINTER LUNCHEON AND
DINNER
(INPATIENTS)
DECEMBER 7

BOCCIA BALL CLINIC
(INPATIENTS)
DECEMBER 9

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER
MONTHLY CHAT
DECEMBER 14

BINGO & PIZZA NIGHT
(INPATIENTS)
DECEMBER 16

WINTER BREAK
(OFFICE CLOSED)
DECEMBER 20-31

E-BRIDGE

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



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>



E-BRIDGE

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



National PVA's Washington Update

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

Justice Department Sues Uber for Overcharging People with Disabilities

The Justice Department has filed a lawsuit under the ADA against Uber Technologies Inc. (Uber) for charging "wait time" fees to passengers who, because of disability, need more time to enter a vehicle. In April 2016, Uber began charging passengers wait time fees in a number of cities, eventually expanding the policy nationwide. Wait time fees start two minutes after the Uber vehicle arrives at the pickup location and are charged until the vehicle begins its trip.

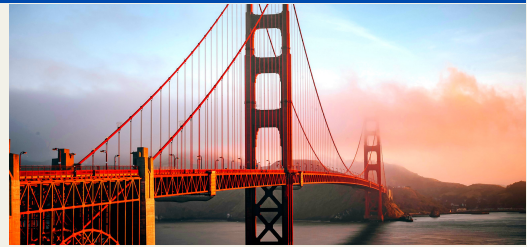
The department's complaint alleges that Uber violates the ADA by failing to reasonably modify its wait time fee policy for passengers who, because of disability, need more than two minutes to get in an Uber vehicle. Passengers with disabilities may need additional time to enter a vehicle for various reasons. A passenger may, for example, use a wheelchair or walker that needs to be broken down and stored in the vehicle. The department's lawsuit alleges that, even when Uber is aware that a passenger's need for additional time is clearly disability-based, Uber starts charging a wait time fee at the two-minute mark.

The lawsuit seeks relief from the court, including ordering Uber to stop discriminating against individuals with disabilities. Additionally, the department asks the court to order Uber to modify its wait time fee policy to comply with the ADA; train its staff and drivers on the ADA; pay money damages to people subjected to the illegal wait time fees; and pay a civil penalty to vindicate the public's interest in eliminating disability discrimination.

Anyone who may have been charged wait time fees, should contact the Justice Department at 833-591-0425 (toll-free), 202-305-6786, or send an email to Uber.Fee@usdoj.gov. The complaint can be viewed [here](#).

E-BRIDGE

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



National PVA's Veterans Career Program Update

WRITTEN BY NATIONAL VETERANS CAREER PROGRAM TEAM IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

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](#)

PVA VETERANS CAREER PROGRAM UPDATE

Jerrod: HEART Fellow and Humanitarian

In February of 2021, the Veterans Career Program highlighted PVA Colonial Chapter's Hoskins Education and Reemployment Training (HEART) program, to provide employment opportunities to PVA members, their family members, or caregivers. The HEART program is a 12-week paid fellowship opportunity for PVA members, spouses, and caregivers to work on behalf of the Chapter while also providing them the opportunity to develop new experience, skills and training to pursue outside employment -- this is a great "earn while you learn" opportunity. At the same time, HEART Fellow participants will work with a PVA Veterans Career Program Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor one-on-one to develop long-term career plans, explore education opportunities, and work on resumes and interview skills.



We are excited that the Colonial Chapter accepted PVA member and US Army Veteran Jerrod Harris as the second HEART fellow into the program. Jerrod is a 100% service-connected veteran who was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 2000. He enjoys mentoring at-risk youth and would like to ultimately return to the workforce in a human services or mentoring role. Jerrod's goal as a HEART Fellow is to advocate on behalf of Veterans with MS and also develop new skills that will help him transition into part-time work engaging and empowering others in his community.

Learn more about the HEART program through this [video](#).

IMPACT + OPPORTUNITIES

October 2021

27 Client Placements

- 20 Paid Employment
- 5 Education/Training
- 2 Volunteer



24 Veterans

3 Family Members

5 PVA Members

187 Total Placements in 2021

Interview with Jim Sinocchi: Making Work and Travel Accessible

"It's about changing the culture. You've got to get the change agents in an organization."

We sat down with Jim Sinocchi, Managing Director and Head of Disability Inclusion at JPMorgan Chase, and Chair of the Air Carrier Access Act Federal Advisory Committee, to discuss National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) and air travel accessibility. You can read the entire interview on our [website](#).



PVA Women Veterans Empowerment Retreat

Women Veterans are the fastest growing Veteran population. Women Veterans with disabilities face unique challenges as they navigate a system that was not designed for them. To support these women, PVA launched our Women Veterans Empowerment Retreat (WVER). This year the four day, all expense paid retreat was held in Arizona and provided attendees the opportunity to connect with each other and learn from experts on whole health, financial security, independent living, meaningful employment and other key topics.

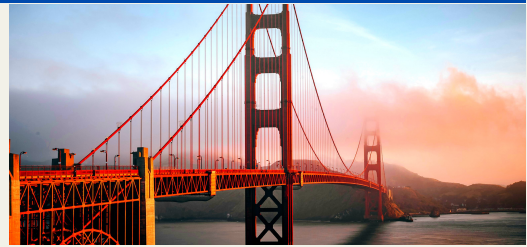


Powered By:



E-BRIDGE

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



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
Criterium 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

E-BRIDGE

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



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

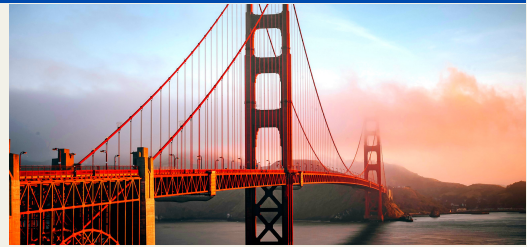
For appointments where Veterans need to be transferred from wheelchair to gurney by nursing staff (CT, MRI etc.) – please call and schedule an RN-TRANSFER Appointment at least 2 weeks in advance. **Scheduling x65871**

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**

E-BRIDGE

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



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.

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

Phone:

(650) 858-3936

Email:

administration@bawpva.org

Website:

bawpva.org

