



Bay Area & Western Chapter

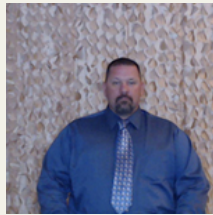
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Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area & Western Chapter, INC.



President's Message

WRITTEN BY REESE LEVASSEUR



We are a month into the New Year and things are steady. Positivity is the only way we will get through the COVID-19 Pandemic. We are still facing uncertainties, so the Chapter is going to continue to follow CDC guidelines and VA protocols to ensure our staff at the Chapter and veterans in the hospital are safe; therefore, the office will be closed most days. Of course, that does not mean we are not here for you. Please email Executive Director Kory Amaral at amaral@bawpva.org if you need anything.

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 February 8, 2022 at 11:30 AM via Zoom. See page 2 for more information. There will be temporary coverage in Palo Alto each month, but if you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out and we will connect you with someone.

BAWPVA and SCI/D Center's Peer Support Mentoring Program - Education and Lunch will continue on the last Friday of the month. This is a great chance to interact with your fellow veterans. A zoom option is available if you are not an inpatient.

Adaptive Sports have always been important to the Chapter. We have recently received a couple donations from National PVA that will allow us to offer new sports to Chapter members. If you are interested in Air Rifle Shooting, please reach out to Executive Director Kory Amaral. The Chapter will also have DISC Golf Clinics in the near future.

Please, if you need anything, do not hesitate to reach out. We are here for you. We also just ordered more face masks so if you are interested, please let us know. We can send it to your house.

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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

(Will only stay on the call for 15 mins if no one calls in)

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>

Why: To receive benefit updates and to ask questions



February Calendar

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER MONTHLY CHAT
FEBRUARY 8

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
FEBRUARY 8

TABLE TENNIS CLINIC (INPATIENTS)
FEBRUARY 10

BINGO & PIZZA NIGHT (INPATIENTS)
FEBRUARY 17

PRESIDENTS' DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)
FEBRUARY 21

SCI PEER MENTORING PROGRAM
FEBRUARY 25

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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.

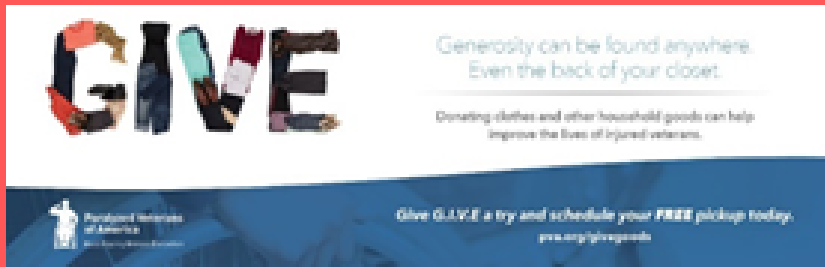
Clothing Donation Program - GIVE
<https://www.pva.org/ways-to-give/g-i-v-e-clothing-donation/>

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.

PVA's 2022 Policy Priorities

We recently released PVA's veterans and disability policy priorities for 2022. Our priorities reflect the need for paralyzed veterans to have access to high-quality, comprehensive health care and timely, accurate delivery of all earned benefits. They must also have equity of access to the opportunities and freedoms available to all Americans. The list of priorities for this year are as follows:

- Protect Access to VA's Specialized Health Care Services (System Access, Staffing, and Infrastructure)
- Expand Access to VA Long-Term Services and Supports (Facility-Based Long-Term Care and Home and Community-Based Services and Caregiver Supports)
- Improve VA Health Care Services and Benefits for Catastrophically Disabled Veterans and their Survivors (Assisted Reproductive Technologies, Survivor Benefits, Adapted Automobile Benefits, and Home Modification Grants)
- Increase Access to VA Health Care and Benefits for Women Veterans with SCI/D
- Protect the Civil Rights of People with Disabilities (Access to Air Travel and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance)
- Strengthen and Enhance Social Security Benefits
- Increase Employment Prospects for Veterans with Disabilities

To learn more about our priorities, please [click here](#).

Hazardous Exposures Survey

Over the past year, Congress has been working on legislation that would expand VA benefits and services to veterans who were exposed to hazardous substances during their military service. As part of this ongoing effort, the House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) is inviting veterans who are living with the effects of service-related toxic exposures to participate in this [survey](#). Responses of participants will help support the Committee's efforts to advance this important legislation.

Survivors and Dependents Survey

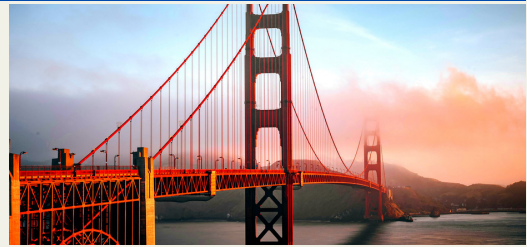
HVAC has established a survey to learn more about the experience of survivors and dependents with VA benefits in preparation for an upcoming hearing. To provide feedback, please [click here](#).

Upcoming Hearings

For the latest VA hearings, please visit the [House](#) and [Senate](#) Committee pages.

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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

Angela Curry: A Time for Me

Angela Curry's household was changing. For the past 20 years Angela had been substitute teaching – a career choice that allowed her the flexibility to be there for her husband, U.S. Army Veteran Preston Curry, and their daughter, when they needed her.

But life was moving forward. PVA's Veterans Career Program recently helped Preston find a job he loves with the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. He is settling in nicely with his new career helping other Veterans, and is active with sports in his free time. The couple's daughter is now grown and off beginning a life of her own after college.

Angela, who holds a Bachelor's degree in both criminal justice and English thought, "This is a time for me to do my thing."

Since her husband had worked with VCP, she knew the program helped spouses as well, so she reached out to explore her education and career options with Alex Spangler, a PVA Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor.

"I wanted to tap into my criminal justice degree, but I'm so out of the loop because I graduated back in 2000," Angela said. "I just needed to be current."

Alex helped Angela update her resume, and introduced her to online courses and job sites. After a few weeks of training through LinkedIn Learning, Angela realized the online platform wasn't a good fit for her. She wanted to look into going back to school to brush up on her computer skills and to obtain a certificate in paralegal studies – but she was worried about the cost. Alex helped her research local community colleges and tuition assistance programs.

(Continued)

IMPACT + OPPORTUNITIES

November 2021

16 Client Placements

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

14 Veterans 1 Family Member

4 PVA Members 1 Caregiver

203 Total Placements in 2021



Alex put her in touch with John Tyler Community College and the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP). Angela applied for, and was approved, for a 100% tuition waiver, and will only be financially responsible for the cost of her books.

Angela says PVA's Veterans Career Program was very helpful with the educational resources she needed to build upon her two bachelor's degrees and change careers.

"I hadn't done a resume in 20 years. Alex helped me with that," she says. "VCP helped me tap into lots of job sites, and take updated computer classes for the specific job that I'm looking for. And it also turned me on to LinkedIn Learning, where you can take courses and get certificates, which you can add to your resume."

Angela is eagerly preparing to go back to school and plans to work with Alex when it is time to start looking for paralegal work. Alex and the Veterans Career Program stand at the ready to find Angela the perfect career fit, just as they did her husband. Alex says, "Angela and I will continue to work together to ensure her success."



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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
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

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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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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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