



Bay Area & Western Chapter

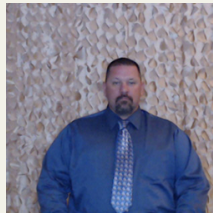
# *E-BRIDGE*

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



## *President's Message*

**WRITTEN BY REESE LEVASSEUR**



Happy March to all of you. I cannot believe how fast 2022 is going by. The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter (BAWPVA) is still following VA Palo Alto Health Care System's (VAPAHCS) guidelines, so the office is still closed to visitors and the events hosted by the Chapter at VAPAHCS will be limited to inpatients. The Chapter and SCI/D Recreation Therapy will be planning events in the near future that will be in the community so we can see more of you.

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 March 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 a representative from PVA.

The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter (BAWPVA) has decided to cancel the St. Patrick's Day Luncheon due to the low census at VAPAHCS. Instead, the Chapter will host a Spring Luncheon for SCI/D Inpatient veterans and staff on April 19, 2022 at 12:00 PM.

Adaptive Sports have always been important to the Chapter especially because we have the National Veterans Wheelchair Games coming up. We have recently received 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, email Kory Amaral at [amaral@bawpva.org](mailto:amaral@bawpva.org) with any questions or concerns.

### *In This Issue*

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**NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER CHAT**

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

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**ABOUT US**

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## National Service Officer Monthly Chat

IN SPONSORSHIP WITH THE  
PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA'S BAY AREA AND 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](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86791501025?pwd=OHJ1KzNoVi9XR0FoSHNvVHRkcFRUZz09)

**Why:** To receive benefit updates  
and to ask questions



### March Calendar

ADVOCACY LEGISLATIVE  
SEMINAR  
MARCH 7-11

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER  
MONTHLY CHAT  
MARCH 8

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S  
MEETING  
MARCH 8

BOCCIA BALL CLINIC  
(INPATIENTS)  
MARCH 10

BINGO & PIZZA NIGHT  
(INPATIENTS)  
MARCH 17

SCI PEER MENTORING  
PROGRAM  
MARCH 25

WINTER SPORTS CLINIC  
MARCH 26 - APRIL 1

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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.

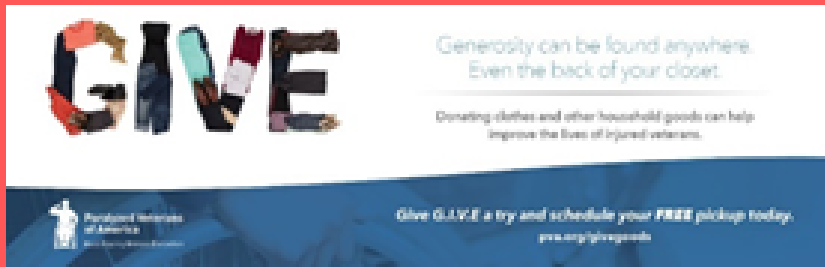
Clothing Donation Program - GIVE  
<https://www.pva.org/ways-to-give/g-i-v-e-clothing-donation/>

## *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.**

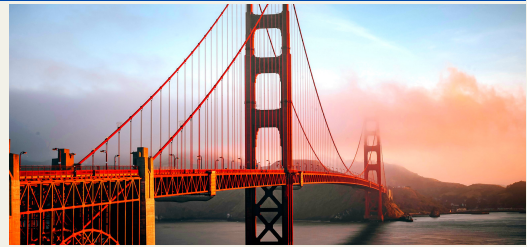
Are you tired of having too many cars or is your car getting old and you are looking to donate it? The Wheels Helping Warriors Program is a program in which we accept vehicles and the proceeds go to our veterans. The process is very simple and veterans from Northern California will benefit from the donation.

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.**

### **Bipartisan Bill to Improve Availability of VA HCBS Introduced in the House**

For several months, PVA's Government Relations team has been working with House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC) staff on legislation that would greatly improve the availability of VA's Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) for our members. That bill, H.R. 6823, the Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act of 2022, was introduced on February 25 and it would make urgently needed improvements to VA HCBS.

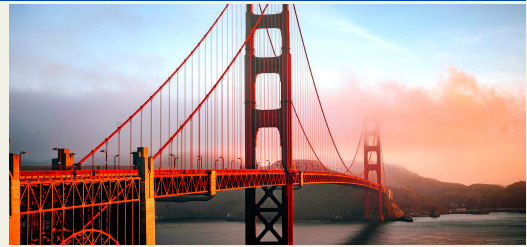
If passed, H.R. 6823 would raise existing caps on noninstitutional care from 65 percent of the cost of nursing home care to 100 percent. It also requires VA to establish a Veteran Directed Care (VDC) program at each VA medical center and ensure the program is available in the U.S. territories as well. It would also allow catastrophically disabled veterans to continue to use funds under the VDC program during a period of hospitalization to hire an attendant to assist with their non-medical needs during hospitalization.

Other provisions in the bill help pave the way for greater veteran participation in critical support programs such as Homemaker and Home Health Aide, Home-Based Primary Care, and Skilled Home Care. Additional language ensures careful consideration is given to the health care needs of any veteran who is removed from the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC), ensuring they receive a smooth and personalized transition from the PCAFC to an appropriate program within VA that meets their needs for noninstitutional extended care services. The bill also includes a pilot program to address direct care worker shortages.

PVA thanks HVAC, Subcommittee on Health Chairwoman Julia Brownley (D-CA) and Ranking Member Jack Bergman (R-MI) for introducing this extremely important legislation that targets so many of our concerns about current VA HCBS program shortfalls. We call on Congress to quickly pass this desperately needed legislation.

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## SCI/D Research's New Study

SUPPORTED BY THE SCI/D RESEARCH TEAM AT VA PALO ALTO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM



Do you have a spinal cord injury (SCI)?

Do you self-identify as LGBTQ+?

Join our research study to explore the social and psychological factors related to your health.

**Time commitment:**

- o Approximately 1 hour for a one-on-one phone interview plus completion of an online survey

**Incentive:**

- o Receive a stipend for your participation

**You may be eligible if you:**

- ✓ have an SCI for at least 6 months
- ✓ self-identify as LGBTQ+\*
- ✓ are 18 years of age or older
- ✓ Veterans and non-Veterans welcome

\* Sexual orientation/gender identity does not need to be documented in your medical records to be eligible.

Participation is open across the US

For information on the study and how to join, please contact:  
**Shane Lamba**  
 650-493-5000 ext.64479

For questions on participants' rights, contact:  
 866-680-2906

### 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

Buckeye Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament \*  
May 9-19, 2022  
\*Virtual 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/WPA 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 29-May 1, 2022  
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

### 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 18-19, 2022  
Gulfport, MS

Buckeye Boccia Tournament \*  
May 9-19, 2022  
\*Virtual Buckeye Wheelchair Games

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

Vaughan Boccia Tournament  
June 11-12, 2022  
Glen Ellyn, IL

### HANDCYCLING

Echelon Racing League ToAD Virtual  
Criterium Races  
November 2021 - February 2022

PVAR High Performance Camp  
January 29 - February 3, 2022  
Brooksville, FL

Swamp Classic  
February 5-6, 2022  
Gainesville, FL

Valley of the Sun  
February 18-20, 2022  
Phoenix, AZ

US Paracycling Open  
April 8-10, 2022  
Huntsville, AL

Off-Road Spring Expo  
April 13-16, 2022  
Chesterfield, VA

Redlands Cycling Classic  
April 20-24, 2022  
Redlands, CA

Pittsburgh Marathon  
May 1, 2022  
Pittsburgh, PA

Tour of America's Dairylands  
June 16-20, 2022  
Milwaukee, WI

Wichita Omnium  
Dates TBD  
Wichita, KS

### NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES



July 7-12, 2022  
Tempe, AZ

Updated 02/08/22

For more information: [pva.org/sports](http://pva.org/sports)

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## Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter's Spring Luncheon

SPONSORED BY THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA AND WESTERN CHAPTER



*Spring Luncheon*  
Tuesday, April 19, 2022  
12:00pm



*PVA Office Room E-118*

**Join us in the PVA Office Room E-118 for a to go lunch to celebrate Spring. All SCI/D veterans and their families are welcome (for inpatients and outpatients who have appointments on April 19, 2022 due to COVID-19 restrictions at VA Palo Alto Health Care System)**

**SCI/D Staff will be required to have a lunch ticket.**

**Menu**

- Chicken Burrito
- Steak Burrito
- Veggie Burrito
- Chips & Salsa

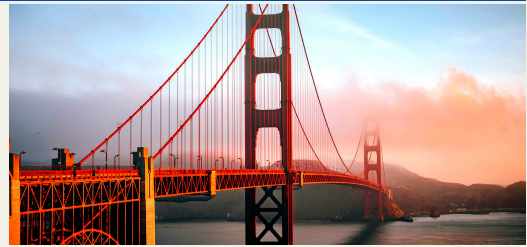
**Sponsored by: Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter, INC.**

**\*Veterans with sitting restrictions will be served at bedside upon request.**



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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.

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 - Office  
(650) 399-5296 - Mobile

Email:

[administration@bawpva.org](mailto:administration@bawpva.org)

Website:

[bawpva.org](http://bawpva.org)

