



Bay Area & Western Chapter

E-BRIDGE

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



Executive Director's Message

WRITTEN BY KORY AMARAL

Hello, I hope everyone is having a great Spring! I know some of you have heard of the changes within the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter (BAWPVA), but I wanted to make a formal announcement. Mr. Reese Levasseur, the President & National Director of BAWPVA, has resigned as the Chapter's President and National Director effective April 30, 2022. Mr. Levasseur may be leaving the Chapter, but he will still be seen at VA Palo Alto Health Care System's SCI/D Center because he has taken the National Service Officer (NSO) position in Palo Alto. The Chapter is forever grateful for Mr. Levasseur's dedication to the Chapter throughout the years, but we would like to congratulate him on his new role.

Mr. Levasseur will be starting as the National Service Officer (NSO) in Palo Alto sometime in May. If you need to speak with an NSO, please join us on May 10, 2022 at 11:30 AM via Zoom. See page 2 for more information. There will be coverage in Palo Alto each month while Mr. Levasseur is in training, but if you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out and we will connect you with a representative from PVA.

Adaptive Sports have always been important to the Chapter especially because we have the National Veterans Wheelchair Games coming up. We recently held a Membership Meeting & Cycling Clinic in Mountain View and over 30 veterans attended. The Chapter will be hosting more clinics within the next few months. I will keep you informed.

Please, if you need anything, do not hesitate to reach out. We are here for you, email Kory Amaral at amaral@bawpva.org or call (650) 399-5296 with any questions or concerns.

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ABOUT US

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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 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



May Calendar

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER
MONTHLY CHAT
MAY 10

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S
MEETING
MAY 10

INTERACTIVE ARTS CLINIC
(INPATIENTS)
MAY 12

PVA ANNUAL CONVENTION
MAY 16 - 21

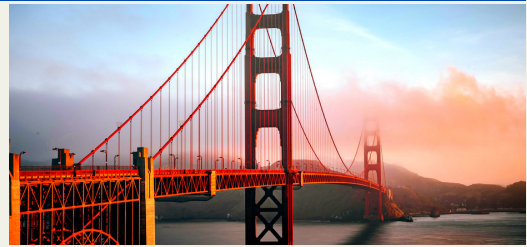
BINGO & PIZZA NIGHT
(INPATIENTS)
MAY 19

SCI PEER MENTORING
PROGRAM
MAY 27

MEMORIAL DAY
(OFFICE CLOSED)
MAY 30

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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.

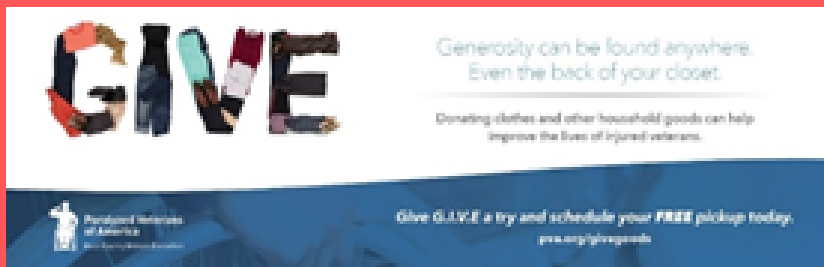
Clothing Donation Program - GIVE
<https://www.pva.org/ways-to-give/g-i-v-e-clothing-donation/>

Car Donation 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 Car Donation 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.

Car Donation Program
<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.

House Panels Scrutinize VA Accreditation Process for Claims Representatives

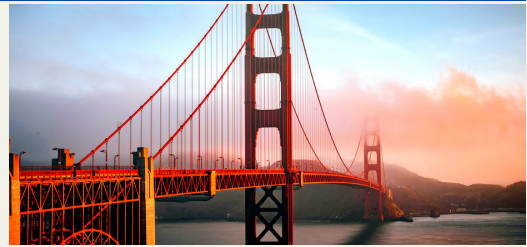
PVA submitted a statement for an April 27 hearing looking at the VA's accreditation process for individuals who assist veterans and survivors with VA claims, appeals, and related matters. The joint hearing conducted by the House Veterans' Affairs Disability and Memorial Affairs and Oversight and Investigation subcommittees was prompted by a growing concern that increasing numbers of unaccredited entities are taking advantage of veterans or their survivors.

PVA reminded the subcommittees that the current accreditation standards may seem cumbersome, but that is because the stakes are high. After all, those accredited to represent veterans before the VA have access to veterans' and claimants' most personal data, including Social Security numbers, private health information, marital status, and children's information. It should not be easy to access this information, and the accreditation requirements exist to protect veterans and their families so that they can fully trust the VA with the information required to adjudicate their claims. Unfortunately, we have heard numerous stories about veterans signing contracts that commit them to give up their VA eBenefits logon and other private information to an unaccredited organization. Many of these veterans are locked into paying months' worth of benefits if a claim is granted, contrary to the accepted formula set out in statute.

This hearing was recorded so you can watch it [here](#). And as a reminder, assistance from PVA's service officers is completely free of charge. Please do not pay for any kind of benefits help before checking with [PVA's Veterans Benefits Department](#) or another reputable veterans service organization whose staff are specially trained and experienced in working with veterans' claims.

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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:

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

Incentive:

- 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

SCI/D
Spinal Cord Injury/
Disorders Center

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

For questions on participants' rights, contact:
866-880-2906

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

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Mission College's Valor Center for Veterans

SPONSORED BY MISSION COLLEGE



Member Column

COMING SOON



Benefits to Being a Mission VALOR Student

- Dedicated counselor for Veterans to help choose classes, develop and education plan and graduate/transfer at our two-year college.
- Space for veterans in the Campus Center to relax, play chess, study, use computers and print.
- Help with GI Benefits.
- Connection to VA benefits and services.
- Free laptop / wifi hotspot loans program.
- 8 free mental health counseling appointments a semester.



Degrees/Courses to Consider

- **Mechatronics**, for those good with their hands, drones, AI technology
- **Hospitality**, for those who like to cook and work in restaurants
- **Business**, for those wanting to start a business or gain business skills
- **Nursing**, for those who were medics in the military
- **Fire Tech / EMT**, for those interesting in firefighting or being an EMT
- **Computer Science**, and working with networks and computers

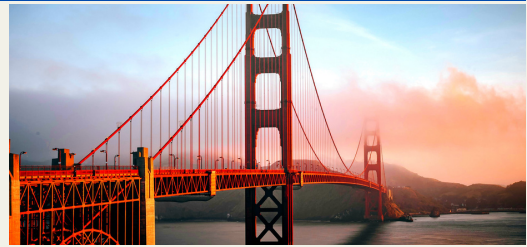
complete list at majors.missioncollege.edu.

valor.missioncollege.edu

Located in the Campus Center • 2nd Floor

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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

Website:

bawpva.org

