



E-BRIDGE

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



Executive Director's Message

WRITTEN BY KORY AMARAL

Wow 2022 is flying by! As we transition into this hot weather, please remember to take the time to take care of yourself. I know many of us want to get out and enjoy the nice weather; especially, with the two-year lockdown, but our health is most important. The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter (BAWPVA) is doing everything we can to have in person events, but safety is most important to us. As soon as we are cleared by the VA, we promise we will open up our events again at VA Palo Alto Health Care System.

Each year the BAWPVA Chapter and the SCI/D Center at VA Palo Alto Health Care System cohost the SCI Memorial in which we honor the veterans we have lost in the past year. This year, the SCI Memorial will be held on Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 2:30 PM via Zoom. Please call in if you get a chance to honor the ones we lost. Visit Page 5 for more information.

We will be visiting the Sacramento area on Wednesday, June 22, 2022 at Ability Center Sacramento. We will host a membership meeting, adaptive sports clinic, and more. We will be sending out a letter to our members in the Sacramento area with more information soon. We encourage you to attend.

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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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>

Why: To receive benefit updates and to ask questions



June Calendar

SCI MEMORIAL
JUNE 9

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER
MONTHLY CHAT
JUNE 14

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S
MEETING
JUNE 14

BINGO & PIZZA NIGHT
(INPATIENTS)
JUNE 16

SACRAMENTO VISIT
JUNE 22

SCI PEER MENTORING
PROGRAM
JUNE 24

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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.

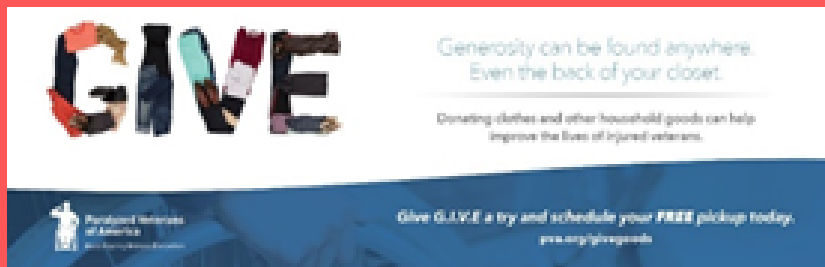
Clothing Donation Program - GIVE
<https://www.pva.org/ways-to-give/g-i-v-e-clothing-donation/>

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.

PVA Submits Views on Pending Legislation

PVA was recently invited to submit its views on more than a dozen bills the Senate plans to mark up in the near future, including one that is a top PVA priority for 2022, S. 3854, the Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act.

This critically important legislation would make urgently needed improvements to VA's Home and Community-Based Services programs, like raising the cap on how much the VA can pay for the cost of noninstitutional care; expanding critical programs like Veteran Directed Care (VDC) and Homemaker and Home Health Aide to all medical centers within two years, and allowing catastrophically disabled veterans to continue to use funds under the VDC program even when hospitalized to retain or hire an attendant to assist with their non-medical needs.

We also supported a measure that seeks to examine ways the VA can pay for veterans' care in assisted living facilities. Currently, the VA can refer veterans to assisted living facilities but it cannot directly pay for that care. S. 4169, the Expanding Veterans' Options for Long Term Care Act, would allow the VA to create a three-year pilot program to test the benefits of having the VA pay for this type of care.

Finally, we backed a draft piece of legislation that would address the lack of transparency in the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC). The bill would lift the veil off the current program by requiring the VA to inform veterans of all criteria used to determine their eligibility for the PCAFC and, in the case of a completed evaluation, explain how the criteria were used to reach the department's decision.

The draft PCAFC legislation would also allow veterans and their caregivers to use representatives to assist them throughout the entire process, from the initial application to an appeal, if necessary. Another provision seeks to soften the blow for veterans who are denied access to the PCAFC or deemed no longer eligible for it by requiring the VA to direct them to other VA programs and services they may be eligible for, including mental health services. The draft bill does not address all of problems with the PCAFC, but it would begin to reshape the program to better fit the needs of veterans and their caregivers.

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SCI Memorial

IN SPONSORSHIP WITH THE
PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA'S BAY AREA AND WESTERN
CHAPTER AND SCI/D CENTER AT VA PALO ALTO HEALTH CARE
SYSTEM



SCI Memorial Service
Thursday, June 9, 2022
2:30 PM
Virtual Memorial - Zoom

- **SCI Staff and Inpatients, please join us in the Spinal Cord Injury Center's Dining Room to honor the lives of the SCI/D veterans who have passed away within the last year. Zoom will be available for individuals at home and VA Staff in other departments (Please see QR Code for Zoom information)**
- **We will fondly remember our fallen SCI/D veterans with their peers and caregivers.**
 - **The ceremony will begin at 2:30pm followed by light refreshments for SCI Staff and Inpatients.**
- **Please contact the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area & Western Chapter's Executive Director Kory Amaral for more details (amaral@bawpva.org, kory.amaral2@va.gov, x65308).**

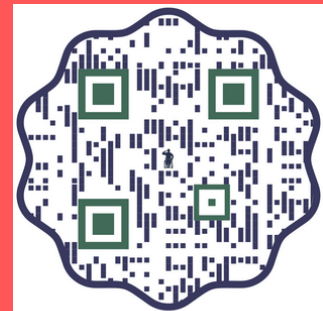
Important Links

[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,](#)
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[PVA'S RESOURCES AND](#)
[UPDATES ON COVID-19](#)



SCI Memorial Service

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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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BAWPVA Sacramento Visit

IN SPONSORSHIP WITH THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA AND WESTERN CHAPTER, INC., ABILITY CENTER SACRAMENTO AND VA PALO ALTO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM'S SCI/D CENTER

Member Column

REESE LEVASSEUR
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

MR. LEVASSEUR SERVED FOR 10 YEARS IN THE U.S. MARINES AND REACHED THE RANK OF STAFF SERGEANT. DURING HIS TOURS HE DID ONE WEST PAC, RECRUITING DUTY, AND TAUGHT LIGHT ARMORED VEHICLE (LAV) DIESEL MECHANICS AS A MILITARY OCCUPATION SPECIALTY (MOS). BEING A MECHANIC BY TRADE, HE BECAME A MOTORCYCLE TECHNICIAN WHICH ENDED WITH HIS CRASH IN 2005. IT LEFT HIM AS AN INCOMPLETE PARAPLEGIC; A T-11 TO L-2 SPINAL FUSION. PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA (PVA) HELPED MR. LEVASSEUR GET HEAVILY INVOLVED IN ADAPTIVE SPORTS WHICH LEAD TO HIM BECOMING THE CHAPTER'S CO-SPORTS DIRECTOR FOR TWO YEARS. MR. LEVASSEUR SERVED AS THE PRESIDENT AND NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA AND WESTERN CHAPTER FROM 2017 TO 2022.

REESE LEVASSEUR IS NOW THE NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER (NSO) AT VA PALO ALTO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. HE CAN BE REACHED AT (650) 493-5000 X65046 OR REESEL@PVA.ORG.



BAWPVA'S SACRAMENTO VISIT

Who: PVA Members & SCI/D Veterans

When: Wednesday, June 22, 2022
11:00am-2:00pm

Where: Ability Center Sacramento
6550 Freeport BLVD.
Sacramento, CA 95822

Why: Discuss updates from PVA/VA and an adaptive sports clinic with the SCI Recreation Therapist

****Lunch Provided****

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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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