



E-BRIDGE

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



Executive Director's Message

WRITTEN BY KORY AMARAL

The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter is excited to announce that we will be in the Fresno area June 5-6, 2023. We plan to have multiple events including an Adaptive Bowling Clinic, Membership Meeting Lunch and more. I will be sending a letter to you directly if you live in the catchment area. We will also be visiting the Sacramento area June 22-23, 2023. More information will be available soon. We encourage our members to attend in that area because we only see you a couple of times a year. All family and friends are welcome. I know it may be hot, but all events will be indoors.

I want to thank everyone who attended the PVA Awareness Month - MS Lunch & Learn. PVA membership for the Chapter consists of veterans with spinal cord injuries, but we also serve veterans who have diseases that affect the spinal cord such as MS or ALS. All of our veterans matter to us, so we will continue to have events to celebrate the diversity in our membership.

On Friday, May 26, 2023, the Chapter and the SCI/D Center in Palo Alto will be continuing our SCI Peer Mentoring Program - Education & Lunch. Each month we have an education topic pertaining to spinal cord injuries or diseases. The May topic is Traveling with a Spinal Cord Injury. This is also a great way to interact with your fellow veterans. Please refer to Page 2 for more information. Outpatients can join us via Zoom. The link is on the flyer.

The office at VA Palo Alto Health Care System's SCI/D Center is now open to visitors. If you need to speak with us in person, let me know and I can put you on the visitor list with approval from the SCI/D Center. 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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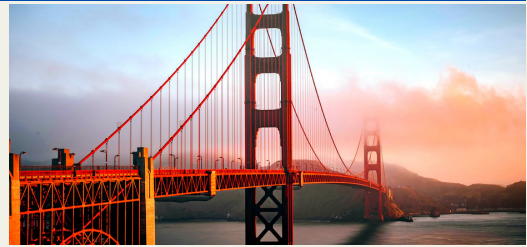
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NATIONAL PVA'S VETERAN CAREER PROGRAM UPDATE

ABOUT US

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



SCI Peer Mentoring Program - Education & Lunch

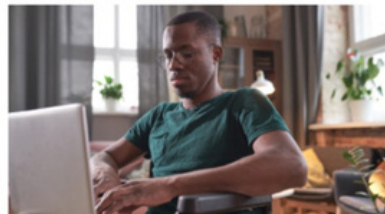
SPONSORED BY THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA AND WESTERN CHAPTER, INC. AND SCI/D CENTER AT VA PALO ALTO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM



Please join us the **LAST FRIDAY** of the month in the **SCI Dining Room** at 11:30 AM for a catered lunch and **F-125 Conference Room** at 12:00 PM for education and a peer support activity. This is a monthly program designed for SCI Veterans to gather together and connect in a social and relaxed environment, socially distanced of course!

If you cannot attend in person, or if group is at capacity, you can call into ZOOM from your room or home.

MEETING ID: 835 1426 6166
PHONE: +1 669 900 9128
ONLINE: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83514266166>



08/18/210 - 1 of 11/04/2021 10:12:30773

May Calendar

ANNUAL CONVENTION
(OFFICE CLOSED)
MAY 8-14

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER
(NSO) MONTHLY CHAT
(VIRTUAL)
MAY 9

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S
MEETING
(VIRTUAL)
MAY 9

ADAPTIVE SPORTS CLINIC
MAY 11

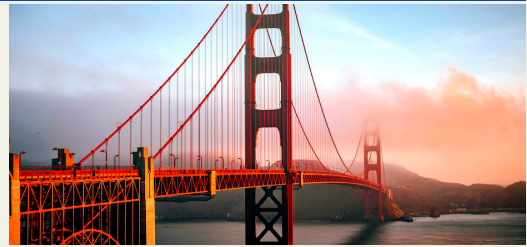
BINGO & PIZZA NIGHT
MAY 18

SCI PEER MENTORING
PROGRAM
MAY 26

MEMORIAL DAY
(OFFICE CLOSED)
MAY 29

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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.

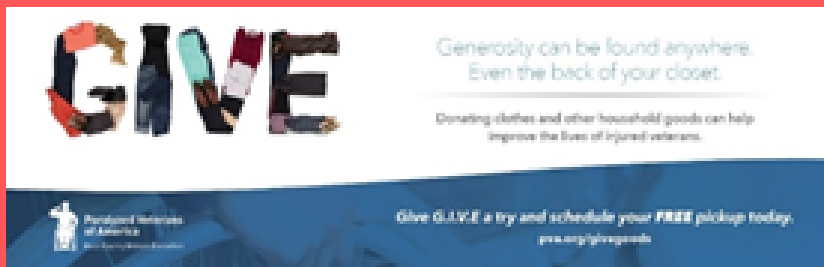
Clothing Donation Program - GIVE
<https://www.pva.org/ways-to-give/g-i-v-e-clothing-donation/>

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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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.

Senate Attempt to Pass HCBS Bill Falters

A Senate attempt to move forward a legislative package that included much of the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act (S. 141) faltered when the chamber failed to obtain the necessary 60 votes. Voting occurred largely along party lines with 41 Republican Senators and 1 Democratic Senator opposing the measure. The complete results of the vote can be viewed [here](#).

In mid-February, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee advanced all but one provision of the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act, which makes sweeping changes to the way VA delivers home and community-based services to veterans. The approved language would, among other things, expand the Veteran Directed Care and similar programs to all VA medical centers, create a pilot program to provide home health aide services for veterans that reside in communities with a shortage of home health aides; and require VA to establish a warm handoff process for veterans and caregivers who are discharged from or are ineligible for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

The approved language was rolled into a legislative package as an amendment to S. 326, which renamed that bill the Veterans Programs Improvement Act of 2023. The legislative package also includes language allowing VA to conduct and support research on the efficacy and safety of using cannabis to treat veterans with certain conditions, as well as other provisions that would bolster mental health care for both veterans and their caregivers.

Much of the opposition to the bill stems from provisions that would have allowed VA to research the effectiveness of using cannabis. There is a growing body of evidence that cannabinoids are useful for treating conditions like chronic pain, and PVA supports VA research into the efficacy of its use.

The Senate Majority Leader switched his vote from "yea" to "nay" at the last minute, so he could preserve his right to call the bill to the floor again at a later date. In the coming days, PVA will be working with congressional staff to garner additional support for the bill, and we fully anticipate there will be another attempt to advance it in the near future.

Please contact your Senators and urge them to support the Veterans Programs Improvement Act.

Hearings & Markups

Upcoming Veterans' Committee Activities

Please visit the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee webpages for information on upcoming hearings and markups.

Check out the [PVAAction Force](#) page to view our latest alerts and a list of key legislation and its status.

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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, INC. 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



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



PVA Bass Tournament Series

- Florida Gulf Coast Bass Tournament, March 24-26, 2023 | Kissimmee, FL
- Kentucky-Indiana Bass Tournament, April 21-23, 2023 | Kuttawa, KY
- Bayou Brawl Bass Tournament, April 28-30, 2023 | Doyline, LA
- Southeastern Challenge, June 2-4, 2023 | Evans, GA
- Capital Clash, June 9-11, 2023 | Waldorf, MD

PVA Billiards Tournament Series

- Mid-America Billiards Tournament, May 5-6, 2023 | Oklahoma City, OK
- Buckeye Billiards Tournament, June 24-26, 2023 | Columbus, OH

PVA Bowling Tournament Series

- Mid-America Bowling Tournament, March 31- April 1, 2023 | Shawnee, OK
- Vaughan Bowling Tournament, May 5-6, 2023 | IL

PVA National Shooting Sports Circuit

- Nevada Trapshoot, March 31-April 2, 2023 | Las Vegas, Nevada
- Wisconsin Trapshoot, May 19-21, 2023 | Green Bay, WI
- Vaughan Trapshoot, May 26-28, 2023 | Elburn, IL
- Iowa Trapshoot (Year-End Tournament), June 16-18, 2023 | Cedar Rapids, IA

Boccia

- The boccia season has concluded.

Handcycling

- Pocahontas Off-Road Spring Camp, April 13-16, 2023 | Chesterfield, VA
- PVA High Performance Off-Road Camp, August 12-21, 2023 | Crested Butte, CO
- Off-Road Handcycling Championship, August 18-20, 2023 | Crested Butte, CO
- Pocahontas Off-Road Fall Camp, September 13-18, 2023 | Chesterfield, VA

Additional Programs

- Martinsburg Pickleball Camp, April 6, 2023 | Martinsburg, WV
- Wisconsin Pickleball Camp, April 29-30, 2023 | Waukesha, WI
- Southeastern Pickleball Camp, May 11-12, 2023 | North Augusta, SC
- Mountain States Disc Golf Camp, June 3-4, 2023 | TBD
- Mountain States Pickleball Camp, August 2023 | TBD
- Lakeshore Basketball Camp, August 28-30, 2023 | Alabama
- Gateway Disc Golf Camp, September 15-16, 2023 | Potosi, MO
- Rugby Camp, September 29-30, 2023 | Phoenix, AZ
- Great Plains Disc Golf Camp, September 23, 2023 | TBD

National Veterans Wheelchair Games

- July 4-9, 2023
Portland, Oregon



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



Veterans Career Program

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

Member Column

WINTER SPORTS CLINIC
MARCH 25 - APRIL 1

THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA AND WESTERN CHAPTER (BAWPVA) WAS ABLE TO SPONSOR 18 VETERANS FROM VA PALO ALTO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM DUE TO THE GENEROSITY OF OUR SPONSORS. FIRST NATION GROUP IS TRULY DEDICATED TO VETERANS AND WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

THE WINTER SPORTS CLINIC THEME IS MIRACLES ON THE MOUNTAINSIDE. OUR VETERANS CAME HOME WITH A NEW EXPERIENCE THAT KEPT THEM WANTING MORE IN ADAPTIVE SPORTS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINING THE SUPPORT FOR OUR VETERANS AT THE NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES.



PVA VETERANS CAREER PROGRAM UPDATE

Veterans Helping Veterans

IMPACT + OPPORTUNITIES

March 2023



In February 2022, Walter Sullivan, nicknamed Sully, approached Rodney Lee, an Employment Analyst at the Veterans Career Program (VCP), six months before retiring from the Marine Corps. They hit it off immediately, discussing career possibilities and civilian life after military service.

Sully's impressive military career spanned over 21 years, with multiple deployments and campaigns under his belt. Retiring on November 1, 2022, as a First Sergeant and Battalion Sergeant Major, Sully had a 100% service-connected disability and was uncertain about his next steps. He explored various options in security management, risk mitigation, logistics management, and senior operations management, even attending a skill-bridge program.

Rodney and Sully worked together to review career opportunities with VCP company partners, developed his resume, and emphasized the importance of networking on LinkedIn. While other industries presented lucrative opportunities, Sully felt compelled to work in veteran career services, something he had been passionate about as a senior leader throughout his military career. Rodney recognized Sully's servant leadership and shared his passion for helping the military/veteran community.

Sully pursued his new purpose, focusing on roles involving veteran talent placement, veteran support, and veteran resource management. Although there were challenges, the VCP supported him, and Sully remained optimistic. Eventually, Sully secured an interview with Work For Warriors and landed the position of Veteran Staffing Consultant. He officially started his new career on April 3, 2023.

21 Client Placements

- 17 Paid Employment
- 2 Education/Training
- 2 Volunteer
 - 16 Veterans
 - 2 Active Duty
 - 3 Military Family Members
 - 2 PVA Members

The average salary for the 14 clients placed in full-time employment was \$63,653; and the average income for the 3 clients placed in part-time work was \$18,867.

Sully shared the following sentiments regarding PVA's Veterans Career Program:

Dear Rodney Lee,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my deep gratitude for your assistance in helping me secure a job in the veteran support-related industry. Your expertise and guidance throughout the job search process were invaluable, and I truly appreciate the time and effort you put into helping me find the perfect opportunity. Your insights into the industry, as well as your knowledge of the job market, were instrumental in my successful job search. Thanks to your support and encouragement, I was able to land a position that aligns perfectly with my skills and interests. I am excited to begin this new chapter in my career and am confident that I will thrive in this role.

Once again, thank you for your unwavering support and guidance. I could not have done this without you and the PVA's Veterans Career Program, and I am truly grateful for all that you and your organization have done for me.

*Sincerely,
Walter Ray Sullivan "Sully"*





PVA.org/find-support/veterans-career-program

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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 over 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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(650) 399-5296 - Mobile

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