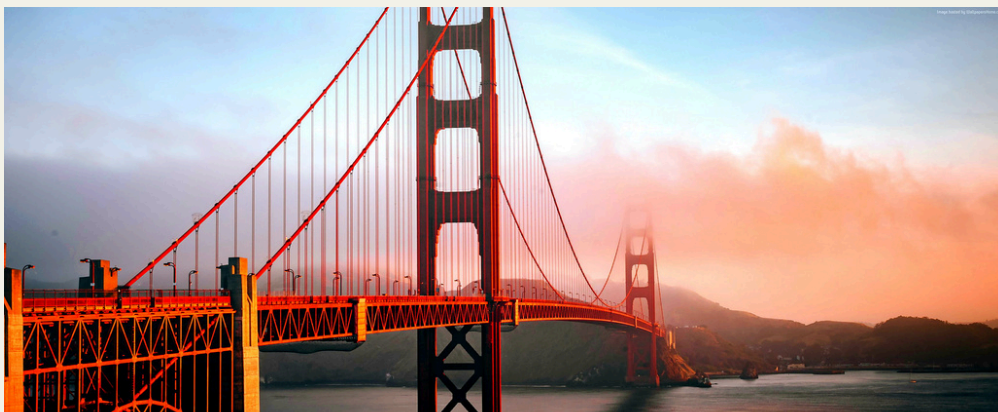




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Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area & Western Chapter, INC.



Executive Director's Message

WRITTEN BY KORY AMARAL

Happy Spring! I hope everyone is preparing for the warm weather we are about to receive. On Tuesday, May 28, 2024 and Wednesday, May 29, 2024 we will be hosting our PVA Fresno Membership Meeting. There will be multiple activities you can attend. This is open to all PVA members, family members, friends, and caregivers. If you would like to attend the event, please let me know. More information is available on Page 6.

On the last Friday of the month, 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 next meeting will be on Friday, May 31, 2024 and the topic will be UTI Management and Prevention. 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 masking mandate has come back to VA Palo Alto Health Care System due to the flu season. Please expect to wear a mask when you enter the buildings on campus. I cannot do anything to change the policy, this mandate came from the recommendations of the county and VA leadership. 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. We are not always in the office so please contact me first to make sure we do not miss each other. Also, 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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SCI Peer Mentoring Program - Education & Lunch

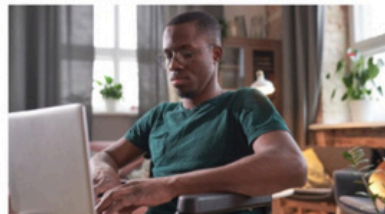
SPONSORED BY THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA AND WESTERN CHAPTER, INC. AND SCI/D CENTER AT VA PALO ALTO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM



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>



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May Calendar

ADAPTIVE SPORTS CLINIC
MAY 9

ANNUAL CONVENTION
MAY 12 TO 19

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER (NSO) MONTHLY CHAT (VIRTUAL)
MAY 14

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING (VIRTUAL)
MAY 14

BINGO & PIZZA NIGHT
MAY 16

MEMORIAL DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)
MAY 27

PVA FRESNO MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MAY 28 TO 29

SCI PEER MENTORING PROGRAM - EDUCATION & LUNCH
MAY 31

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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/>

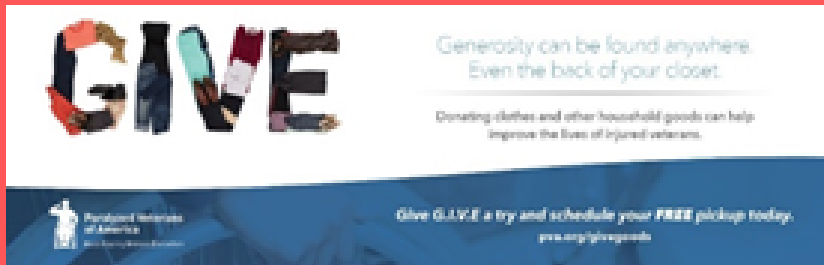
Car Donation Program

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.



HVAC Subcommittees Hold Markups

During the week of April 14, several House Veterans' Affairs (HVAC) subcommittees held markups on pending legislation. The Health Subcommittee moved several bills supported by PVA on April 16. A few of the bills are H.R. 3225, the BUILD for Veterans Act, which seeks to improve staffing so the VA can improve its management of infrastructure construction; H.R. 6324, the Fiscal Year 2024 VA Major Medical Facility Authorization Act, which authorizes the VA to carry out 11 major medical facility projects; and H.R. 6373, the Veterans STAND Act, which would ensure that SCI/D veterans are offered an annual medical exam, as well as improved communication about the availability of assistive technologies.

That same day, the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee also marked up several PVA-supported bills. A few of those bills are H.R. 1083, the Caring for Survivors Act of 2023, which raises Dependency and Indemnity Compensation rates to meet the 55 percent threshold experienced by survivors of federal employees; H.R. 3651, the Love Lives on Act of 2023, which would ensure survivors retain many benefits from the VA and the Department of Defense if they remarry before the age of 55; H.R. 7150, the Survivor Benefits Delivery Improvement Act of 2024, which would direct the VA to collect demographic data on survivors and develop an outreach program for that population; and H.R. 7777, Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2024, which would increase VA benefits at the same percentage rate as Social Security benefits.

The following day, April 17, the HVAC Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee held its markup of pending legislation. During the markup, the subcommittee considered H.R. 7342, the Veterans Accessibility Advisory Committee Act of 2024, a priority for PVA. This legislation which would establish a federal advisory committee on accessibility in the VA.

All of the bills discussed at the subcommittee markups are now eligible for future action by the full committee. More information about the markups is available [here](#).

Upcoming Veterans' Committee Activities

Please visit the [House](#) and [Senate](#) Veterans' Affairs Committee webpages for information on upcoming hearings and markups.

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National Service Officer (NSO) 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

[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](#)

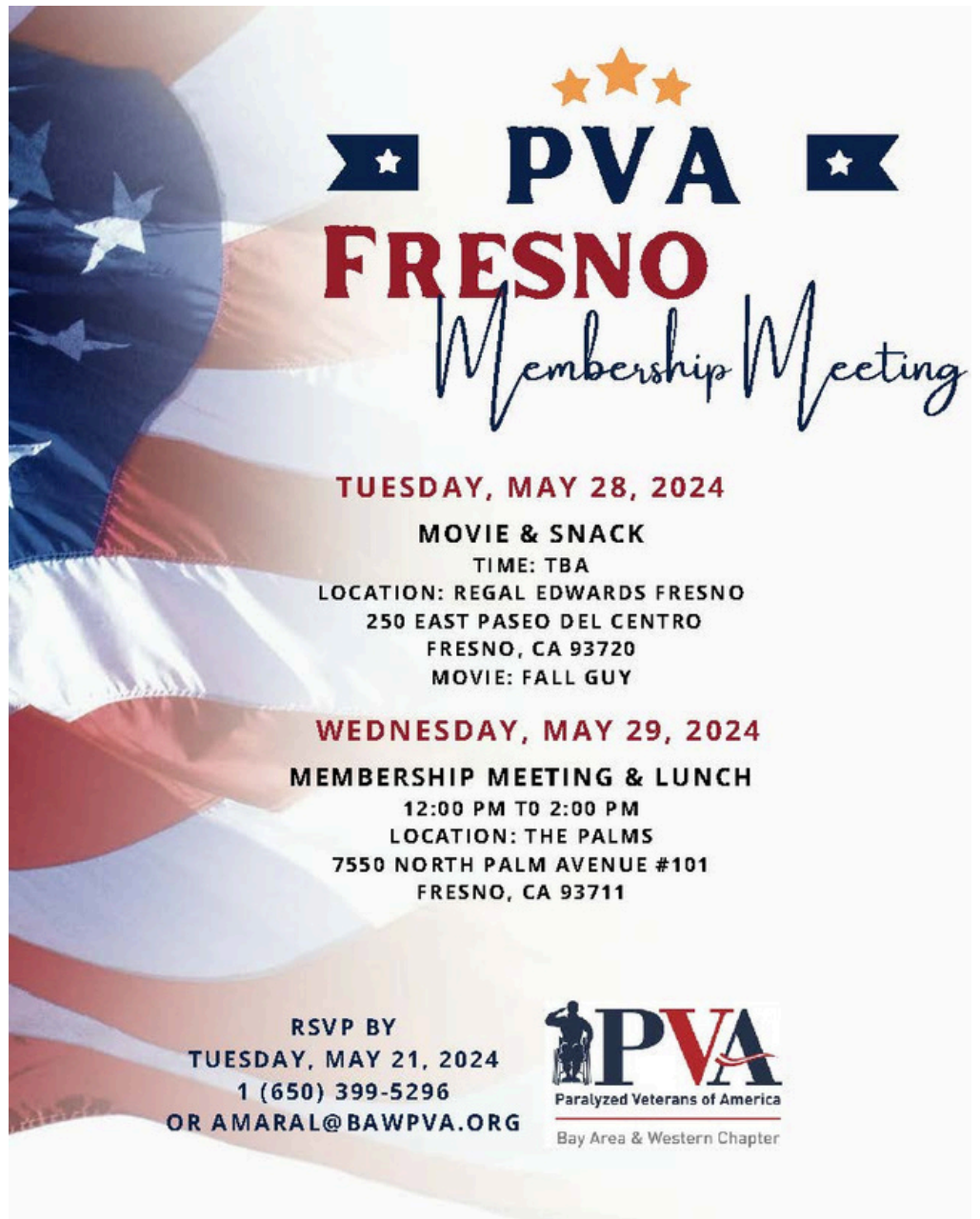
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PVA Fresno Membership Meeting

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



FRESNO
Membership Meeting


TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2024

MOVIE & SNACK
 TIME: TBA
 LOCATION: REGAL EDWARDS FRESNO
 250 EAST PASEO DEL CENTRO
 FRESNO, CA 93720
 MOVIE: FALL GUY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2024

MEMBERSHIP MEETING & LUNCH
 12:00 PM TO 2:00 PM
 LOCATION: THE PALMS
 7550 NORTH PALM AVENUE #101
 FRESNO, CA 93711

RSVP BY
 TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024
 1 (650) 399-5296
 OR AMARAL@BAWPVA.ORG


 Paralyzed Veterans of America
 Bay Area & Western Chapter

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Veterans Career Program

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

Member Column

THE PARALYED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA AND WESTERN CHAPTER, INC. (BAWPVA) SENT 18 VETERANS TO THE NATIONAL DISABLED WINTER SPORTS CLINIC (NDVWSC) APRIL 1-8, 2024 IN SNOWMASS, CO.

VETERANS WERE ABLE TO SKI OR SNOWBOARD FOR 2 DAYS AND THERE WERE MANY ALTERNATE ACTIVITIES INCLUDING SNOWMOBILING, HOT SPRINGS, CURLING, ICE HOCKEY, SCUBA DIVING AND MORE.

NEXT UP, WE ARE PREPARING FOR THE NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES (NVWG) IN NEW ORLEANS, LA IN JULY 2024.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT ADAPTIVE SPORTS, PLEASE LET US KNOW.



PVA VETERANS CAREER PROGRAM UPDATE

March 2024

OPTIONS FOR RETRAINING: PART II



In our December 2023 Program Update, we introduced you to Army veteran, Rose Lopez. Rose contacted the Veterans Career Program after a Veterans Career Live session on Federal hiring procedures. Her degrees and experience were in IT, but she didn't know if that was the field she wanted to be in as a career. Rose and Jim Arndt, our Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor in Minneapolis, MN, began exploring alternative careers while continuing to consider IT positions.

Rose continued to participate in our weekly career webinars; and one session that turned her career outlook around was with the Accelerated Training in Defense Manufacturing (ATDM). Rose applied for and was accepted into the program; and relocated to Virginia for training in late 2023.

We are extremely happy to announce that Rose has completed the ATDM program; and accepted a position as a CNC Programmer/Machinist and Business Development Associate with Integrity Industries in Clearwater, Florida.

Rose shared: "Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) and the Accelerated Training in Defense Manufacturing (ATDM) program have been the guiding stars on my journey. Their unwavering dedication to empowering disabled veterans is beyond compare, and I owe them a debt of gratitude for shaping my path. With their unwavering support, I've embarked on a thrilling career as a CNC machinist in defense manufacturing.

And now, with these exhilarating changes, I'm thrilled to announce my move to Florida and the purchase of my very first home. It's a testament to the transformative power of seizing opportunities and the boundless support I've been blessed with. With this newfound energy and inspiration, I eagerly anticipate the next chapter, knowing that with their steadfast backing, the sky's the limit."

MONTHLY IMPACT



- 31 Client Placements
 - 8 Paid Employment
 - 21 Education/Training
 - 2 Volunteer
 - 25 Veterans
 - 1 Active Duty
 - 5 Family Members
 - 18 PVA Members
- The average salary for the 4 clients in full time employment was \$56,842; and the average income for the 4 clients in part time employment was \$22,360.

Learn more about ATDM at <https://atdm.org/> and join us for an information session on ATDM on Tuesday, May 7th at 4PM ET. Register at <https://pva.org/find-support/veterans-career-program/veterans-career-live/>

EXPLORING SELF-EMPLOYMENT



According to the National Disability Institute, 74% of people with disabilities do not participate in the labor force, but continue to turn to self-employment and small business development as a viable alternative.

On Wednesday, March 13th, we launched our 3rd Cohort of the Disabled Veterans and Spouses Self-Employment Program. We received 69 applications (59 members, 4 spouses, 5 member/spouse teams and 1 member/caregiver team); and selected 20 participants at random. The program will run for 10 weeks (providing training, counseling and access to capital to PVA members and/or their spouses who are considering self-employment) culminating in Pitch Night on Wednesday, May 29th where we will award at least two \$2,500 small business start-up grants - thanks to a generous donation from the Wells Fargo Foundation.



PVA.org/VeteransCareerProgram

POWERED BY:



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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 531 members, but sees over 1,000 paralyzed veterans at the SCI/D Center at VA Palo Alto Health Care System. 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

