



E-BRIDGE

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



Executive Director's Message

WRITTEN BY KORY AMARAL

As the Summer comes along, we have a lot of events coming up. Nevada PVA members will be coming September 13-17, 2024 for our Annual PVA Reno Takeover. Please see Page 6 for more information. This is a fun event, and we would love to see more of you out there. Also, on September 30, 2024 we will be hosting our 13th Annual Golf Tournament at Topgolf in San Jose, CA. If you love to golf and you want to have a good time, please contact me directly. My contact information is below. This fundraiser raises funds for our Sports & Recreation and Research programs. We look forward to a fun day of golf.

On the last Friday of the month, the Chapter and the VA Palo Alto Health Care System's SCI/D Center 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, August 30, 2024 and the topic will be Bowel Care. 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.

I will be traveling at the end of the month for the PVA Summit. Although I am not in the medical field, I love to learn the latest about spinal cord injuries, so I can better serve the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter's members. As always, I am here for you so please either call or text me at (650) 399-5296 or email me at amaral@bawpva.org and I will get back to you in a timely manner.

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ABOUT US

E-BRIDGE

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



SCI Peer Mentoring Program - Education & Lunch

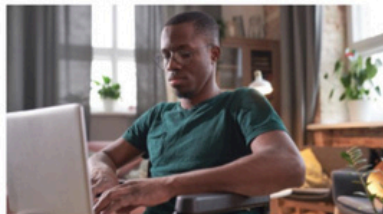
SPONSORED BY THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA AND WESTERN CHAPTER, INC. AND SCI/D CENTER AT VA PALO ALTO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM



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 aug 11:00:00 AM 10/12/2023

August Calendar

NATIONAL PVA SITE VISIT
PALO ALTO
AUGUST 7 TO 8

ADAPTIVE SPORTS CLINIC
AUGUST 8

PVA BANQUET
AUGUST 10

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER
(NSO) MONTHLY CHAT
(VIRTUAL)
AUGUST 13

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S
MEETING
AUGUST 13

BINGO & PIZZA NIGHT
AUGUST 15

PVA SUMMIT
(OFFICE CLOSED)
AUGUST 25 TO 28

SCI PEER MENTORING
PROGRAM - EDUCATION &
LUNCH
AUGUST 30

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



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>

GIVE

Generosity can be found anywhere.
Even the back of your closet.

Donating clothes and other household goods can help improve the lives of injured veterans.

Give GIVE a try and schedule your **FREE** pickup today.
www.org/givegoods

PVA
Paralyzed Veterans of America

VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM

Especially now,
we need your support.

Donate a car, truck or other vehicle. The process is easy, the pick-up is free, and your gift is tax-deductible.

Give Today

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



National PVA's Washington Update

WRITTEN BY NATIONAL PVA'S GOVERNEMENT RELATIONS TEAM IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



VA Informs Stakeholders of Funding Shortfalls

After months of speculation regarding the status of VA's funding for fiscal years (FY) 2024 and 2025, the department recently informed Congress of budget shortages for paying benefits and providing health care. The most immediate concern is the \$2.883 billion shortage in the FY 2024 mandatory accounts that fund VA disability compensation, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, and education benefits. VA will not be able to pay September benefits on time unless the department receives needed supplemental funding by September 20.

On July 29, Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) introduced the bipartisan Veterans Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024. The legislation would approve the funding VA needs to address the FY 2024 benefits shortfall. The legislation would also require the Government Accountability Office to review the circumstances that led to the budget shortfall and for the VA to submit a revised budget for FY 2025. In addition, the legislation would require VA to report on potential cost savings measures within VA Central Office. Consideration of the legislation is moving quickly and may be finalized before Congress returns from its August recess.

For FY 2025, the VA is short \$11.971 billion for medical care. This funding is part of VA's discretionary accounts. Funding for VA health care is advance appropriated. The President's budget submission for FY 2025/FY 2026 advance did not request additional funding for FY 2025 known as a "second bite." Instead, VA's request included significant carryover from FY 2024 to fund FY 2025. This plan started unraveling early in FY 2024 as VA's efforts to limit staff hires and implement other cost cutting measures failed and the department was forced to use funding in FY 2024 instead of carrying it over to FY 2025.

Filling the hole in VA's health care budget for FY 2025 will be more complicated than addressing the benefits funding shortfall. VA benefits are funded with mandatory dollars. Although the funding must be appropriated by Congress, they have little say in whether or not to do so. Since VA health care is funded with discretionary dollars, Congress has more say in how the need is addressed.

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees have already passed their versions of the VA spending bill for FY 2025/FY 2026. Current spending caps mean that any additional funding eventually provided to VA will need to come from the other programs/agencies funded with discretionary dollars. This is sure to set up a spending fight about how to address the shortfall.

PVA will continue to work with our partners in the Independent Budget (DAV and VFW), as well as other veterans organizations, to ensure that the VA has the funding needed to pay earned benefits on time and provide health care services to meet the needs of disabled veterans.

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



National Service Officer (NSO) Monthly Chat

IN SPONSORSHIP WITH THE
PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, 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 Reno Takeover 2024

IN SPONSORSHIP WITH THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA & WESTERN AND NEVADA CHAPTERS, CITY OF RENO, VA PALO ALTO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM'S SCI/D CENTER, AND MOVE UNITED




PVA

RENO

Takeover

**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 14, 2024**

BOWLING & SNACKS
10:30 AM
LOCATION: COCONUT BOWL
1855 EAST LINCOLN WAY
SPARKS, NV 89434

PVA DINNER
6:00 PM
LOCATION: WILD RIVER GRILLE
17 SOUTH VIRGINA STREET
RENO, NV 89501

**MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 16, 2024**

**PVA MEMBERSHIP MEETING & LUNCH /
ADAPTIVE SPORT CLINIC (ADAPTIVE FOOTBALL)**
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
LOCATION: EVELYN MOUNT NORTHEAST
COMMUNITY CENTER
1301 VALLEY ROAD
RENO, NV 89512

**SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 15, 2024**

MOVIE & SNACKS
1:00 PM
MOVIE: TBA
LOCATION: CINEMARK CENTURY
RIVERSIDE 12
11 NORTH SIERRA STREET
RENO, NV 89501

**RSVP BY FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 6, 2024**
1 (650) 399-5296 OR
AMARAL@BAWPVA.ORG

MEALS ARE ONLY PROVIDED DURING SCHEDULED PVA EVENTS

Sponsors







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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

THE PARALYED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA AND WESTERN CHAPTER, INC. (BAWPVA) JUST ATTENDED THE NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES (NVWG) IN NEW ORLEANS, LA. WE SPONSORED 13 ATHLETES TO ATTEND THE EVENT. THANK YOU TO FIRST NATION GROUP WHO GAVE US A GRANT.

OUR VETERANS COMPETED IN 20 DIFFERENT SPORTS AND BROUGHT BACK MANY MEDALS...GO VA PALO ALTO!

NEXT YEAR, THE NVWG WILL BE HELD JULY 17-22, 2025 IN MINNEAPOLIS, MN. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHAPTER FOR MORE INFORMATION.



PVA VETERANS CAREER PROGRAM UPDATE

June 2024

HELP DURING MILITARY TRANSITION



In September of 2022, our Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC), Danielle Hetu, came in contact with Russell Parker via LinkedIn. Russell was still in the Marines and was planning his transition. His utilization of LinkedIn, particularly his posts

regarding his journey led to Danielle contacting him to offer assistance and resources. While Russell was well on his way, Danielle shared resources, sent training resources, and information related accommodations. He landed a fellowship and ultimately was hired at Barclays.

Danielle and Russell have continued to have periodic check ins, and in June 2024, Danielle was following up and discovered that Russell had started his own LLC (Forty-Four Risk PM, LLC, <https://theriskblog.com/>) as a way to continue his dedication to learning and also sharing what he has learned. Russell has had a successful career transition and with his LLC, is able to share resources and information to others and he has a strong desire to make his site available to other veterans in his field.

VRC Danielle Hetu stated, "One thing I remember so vividly, Russell stated that even though he was in the military for 20 years, he was astonished at the resources available to veterans during and post transition. Even though I was really just checking in and sending resources, Russell took advantage of all resources and he is a perfect example of how to take advantage of veteran programs and services."

MONTHLY IMPACT

19 Client Placements

- 14 Paid Employment
- 5 Education/Training
- 0 Volunteer
 - 19 Veterans
 - 1 Active Duty
 - 1 Family Member
 - 1 Caregiver
 - 3 PVA Members



- The average salary for the 8 clients in full time employment is \$59,318; and the average income for the 6 clients in part time employment is \$26,062.

In FY24, the Veterans Career Program placed a total of 240 clients (including 49 PVA members); and has placed a total of 3,163 clients (including 484 PVA members) since its inception in 2007.

WELCOME HEIDI CLAYPOOL



We'd like to welcome our newest Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC), Heidi Claypool. She has a MS Degree in Rehabilitation and Mental Health, is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC). Heidi resides in the Tampa, FL area, and will be supporting clients in FL, ALAK, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC & PR.

My name is Heidi Claypool and I'm excited to join PVA! I have worked in the nonprofit, veteran sector for over nine years. I graduated from USF with a Masters in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling along with my CRC. Prior to this, I worked as an outpatient therapist and interned at the James A. Haley VA, as a vocational rehabilitation specialist. Having had multiple family members in the military and having been a military spouse, I have seen the need and have a passion for helping the veteran community.

On a personal note, I have two adult children, and will be promoted to Gammy at the end of this year. I have three border collies and two cats, all energetic rescues. I enjoy exploring new places, venturing out into nature and am a Disney fanatic.



PVA.org/VeteransCareerProgram

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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 521 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:

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Palo Alto, CA 94304-0027

Phone:

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