



E-BRIDGE

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



Executive Director's Message

WRITTEN BY KORY AMARAL

The next couple of months will be busy with membership events. We will be hosting the PVA Reno Takeover with the Nevada PVA Chapter September 13-17, 2024. We have over 20 veterans signed up for the event and we are excited to see all of you. We will also be in Hawaii October 14-20, 2024 to meet with our members out there. We have many new events planned and more information will be available soon. On Monday, September 16, 2024 the SCI/D Center in Palo Alto will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary. Please see Page 5 for more details.

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, September 27, 2024 and the topic will be community 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.

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.

In This Issue

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

SCI PEER MENTORING PROGRAM - EDUCATION & LUNCH

GOODS INSPIRING VETERANS EVERYWHERE (GIVE) AND CAR DONATION PROGRAMS

NATIONAL PVA'S GOVERNMENT RELATIONS WASHINGTON UPDATE

VA PALO ALTO SCI/D CENTER'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

KAISER FOUNDATION REHABILITATION CENTER'S DRIVING BEYOND BARRIERS

NATIONAL PVA'S VETERANS CAREER PROGRAM

ABOUT US

E-BRIDGE

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



SCI Peer Mentoring Program - Education & Lunch

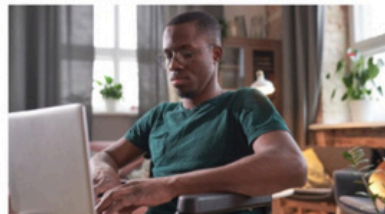
SPONSORED BY THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA AND WESTERN CHAPTER, INC. AND SCI/D CENTER AT VA PALO ALTO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM



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 sep 11:00:00 AM 10.12.2023

September Calendar

LABOR DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)
SEPTEMBER 2

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER (NSO) MONTHLY CHAT (VIRTUAL)
SEPTEMBER 10

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10

PVA RENO TAKEOVER
SEPTEMBER 13-17

VA PALO ALTO SCI/D CENTER'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY
SEPTEMBER 16

BINGO & PIZZA NIGHT
SEPTEMBER 19

SCI PEER MENTORING PROGRAM - EDUCATION & LUNCH
SEPTEMBER 27

BAWPVA'S 13TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
SEPTEMBER 30

E-BRIDGE

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

E-BRIDGE

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 Funding Shortfall Update

Last month, we reported that Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) had introduced legislation seeking to cover a \$2.883 billion shortage in VA's fiscal year (FY) 2024 mandatory accounts that fund disability compensation, survivor, and education benefits. The Veterans Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024 would not only provide the needed funding, but would also require VA to report on potential cost savings measures within VA Central Office, direct the Government Accountability Office to review the circumstances that led to the budget shortfall, and instruct the VA to submit a revised budget for FY 2025.

Efforts to fast track the bill through the upper chamber before the August recess ended when a handful of Senators objected to considering the bill, prior to examining why the shortfall existed in the first place. As a result, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will likely hold a hearing in early September to assess the cause of the shortfall and identify potential corrective actions. Congress needs to pass legislation addressing the funding gap before September 20. [Take action now](#) to let your members of Congress know that this shortfall must be addressed as soon as possible.

Advocacy During the August Congressional Recess

The House and Senate are only holding pro forma sessions during the month of August, so lawmakers are home working in state and local district offices. A pro forma session is a brief meeting of the chamber (e.g., a few minutes) where no formal legislative business is conducted. As a general rule, your elected officials are usually more accessible when they are in their states and districts and we encourage members to take advantage of that. Plan to attend town hall meetings or meet with them in their local offices. They may also be attending parades and other community celebrations so be sure to keep an eye out for these opportunities as well. Each of these venues offer great opportunities for you to introduce yourself to your elected officials and share your concerns with them. As a reminder, [check out PVA's policy priorities for the August recess](#).

E-BRIDGE

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



VA Palo Alto SCI/D Center's 50th Anniversary

IN SPONSORSHIP WITH THE
VA PALO ALTO SCI/D CENTER AND PARALYZED VETERANS OF
AMERICA, BAY AREA AND WESTERN CHAPTER, INC.

CELEBRATING
50 YEARS

Spinal Cord Injury & Disorders Center
is turning 50!

Monday, September 16, 2024 at 12:00pm

**VA Palo Alto Health Care System
Auditorium, Building 101,
Room C1-100**

**With regards,
Doug Ota, M.D.
Chief Spinal Cord Injury & Disorders
Service**

3801 Miranda Avenue, Palo Alto
Contact: (650) 493-5000 x69230

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](#)

E-BRIDGE

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



Kaiser Foundation Rehabilitation Center's Driving Beyond Barriers

IN SPONSORSHIP WITH THE KAISER FOUNDATION AND THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA & WESTERN CHAPTER, INC.



KAISER FOUNDATION REHABILITATION CENTER PRESENTS:

DRIVING BEYOND BARRIERS

ADAPTIVE CAR SHOW & TRANSPORTATION FAIR



SHOWCASING VEHICLES ADAPTED TO MEET THE TRANSPORTATION AND RECREATION NEEDS OF THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY

SATURDAY, SEPT. 21

11 A.M. - 3 P.M.

KAISER PERMANENTE VALLEJO MEDICAL CENTER

975 SERENO DRIVE

FOLLOW THE SIGNS TO LOT 7



PLEASE USE THIS QR CODE TO REGISTER YOUR ADAPTED HOT ROD, MUSCLE CAR, OR CLASSIC RIDE.

Have questions or need more info?

Steve @ 707-651-3883 or KFRC-Car-Show@kp.org

Wyatt @ 707-651-2198 or KFRC-Car-Show@kp.org

E-BRIDGE

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 VA'S NATIONAL DISABLED VETERANS SUMMER SPORTS CLINIC IN SAN DIEGO, CA LAST MONTH.

OUR VETERANS COMPETED IN MANY DIFFERENT EVENTS AND THEY HAD A GREAT TIME...GO VA PALO ALTO!

PLEASE SEE BELOW FOR PHOTOS FROM THE EVENT.



PVA VETERANS CAREER PROGRAM UPDATE

July 2024

PERSISTENCE PERSONIFIED



Andrea Ruiz's story can best be described as persistence personified. Andrea is a retired Army veteran, who joined the military in 2012 wanting to see the world. Her plan to pursue a life-long career in the military was cut

short after being diagnosed with Chiari malformation with an inoperable syrinx on her spine in 2017.

Andrea initially reached out to VCP vocational counselors looking for basic resources and peer support. Over time however, Andrea was able to get assistance in many different areas that can affect an individual's quality of life. For example, accessible home design, academic accommodations, and help finding a remote position.

Since becoming a client of the Veterans Career Program in April 2022, Andrea has made use of every opportunity presented to her. In November 2023, she obtained a full-time position as a peer support specialist. Andrea has also started her own business, Sowing Soothing Seeds, with the help of the VCP self-employment program. Her business allows her to utilize her experiences with chronic pain and mental health to help others.

Recently, Andrea was offered a fellowship with RespectAbility's National Leadership Program. This program aims to train leaders who are committed to disability issues and plan to go into careers in public policy, advocacy, communications, diversity, equity and inclusion, fundraising, nonprofit management or faith-based inclusion.

MONTHLY IMPACT

16 Client Placements

- 13 Paid Employment
- 4 Education/Training
- 3 Volunteer
 - 16 Veterans
 - 0 Active Duty
 - 0 Family Member
 - 0 Caregiver
 - 3 PVA Member



- The average salary for the 11 clients in full time employment was \$71,622; and the average income for the 1 client in part time employment was \$19,000.

DOG TAG FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



The Dog Tag Fellowship Program equips veterans, military spouses, and caregivers with the tools and education to build resilience, find renewed purpose, and forge community beyond the military. Dog Tag provides a bridge from military service to the civilian world and acts as a catalyst for finding direction and moving forward. Fellows earn a business certificate from Georgetown University (DC program) or Loyola University Chicago (Chicago program); bring their coursework to life by learning the ins and outs of running a successful business in the bakery; build community with each other; and enhance their well-being by committing time to introspection, storytelling, and personal growth.

Applications for the Winter 2025 cohort are open until September 23, 2024:
www.dogtaginc.org/pages/application.

If you have questions or difficulty accessing the application, please contact them at fellowship@dogtaginc.org.



PVA.org/VeteransCareerProgram

POWERED BY:



E-BRIDGE

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



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 526 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

