



**Paralyzed Veterans of America,  
Bay Area and Western Chapter,  
INC.**

***Celebrating 60 years !***

**Fiscal Year 2022-2023  
Annual Report**





# President's Message



*Dear PVA Members, Friends and Donors:*

It is the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter, INC. (BAWPVA) pleasure to present to you our Annual Report for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023.

As in past years, this years' budget was assembled by the Board of Directors and the Executive Director to help guide us throughout the year. Although the COVID-19 Pandemic was still around during this fiscal year, the Chapter remained steady. We explored new funding sources whether it was through new grants or fundraisers. The Chapter focused on our mission and programs, but most importantly we proceeded to advocate for our members' health care & civil rights and supported activities for our members.

This year we continued to advocate for our members' access to health care in areas that do not have a Spinal Cord Injury Center by hosting annual membership meetings at Hub and Spoke community sites (Fresno, Hawaii, Palo Alto, and Reno). Receiving quality health care is the key to maintain a healthy life. The Chapter has members throughout Northern California, Northern Nevada, and the Pacific Islands. We do not want our members to face barriers in terms of where they reside. Membership meetings grow each year with participation from our members. Chapter staff, VA staff, National Service Officers (NSOs) and community partners are either on the call or in person to ensure our veterans have the resources they need.

Although I was not President during this fiscal year, as a Board Member, I continue to believe following the Chapter's mission and programs will allow us to be successful for our paralyzed veterans. My job as a Board Member is to grow and help support the Chapter any way I can.

We are members of the Chamber of Commerce in Palo Alto and we hope to spread our mission through their events. The Chapter is also accredited by the Better Business Bureau. The Chapter works with the youth and young adults in the community by educating students on individuals with disabilities.

There are so many individuals who are involved to make this Chapter thrive and I would like to thank the past and current Board of Directors, PVA members, friends and donors of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter, INC.(BAWPVA) for all you have done over the past year. We did have Elections during this fiscal year, but our Board was made up of the same individuals from the past two years. This shows that our members truly trust the Board and believe in their direction for the future.

We will continue to support our members and I believe our Annual Report will reflect our diligence in achieving these goals. Please visit our website ([www.bawpva.org](http://www.bawpva.org)) to view upcoming events and more.

Chet Miller

# Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter, INC. FY 2022-2023

## Officers

President	Sebastian DeFrancesco
Vice-President	Kevin Hoy
Secretary	Kenneth Pollock
Treasurer	Tomasz Modrzejowski

## Board of Directors

Director	Chet Miller
Director	Jessica Greene
Director	Kyle Hansel
Director	Michael Luberto
Director	Stephen Estrada

## Appointees

Directors of Sports & Recreation	Chet Miller, Sebastian DeFrancesco & Tomasz Modrzejowski
Government Relations Director	Kevin Hoy
Membership Officers	Kory Amaral & Sebastian DeFrancesco
Volunteer Officer	Kory Amaral
Newsletter Editor	Kory Amaral
CDCE Representative	Victor Escamilla

## National Director to PVA

National Director	Kevin Hoy
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## Staff

Executive Director	Kory Amaral
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## PVA National Service Officers

National Service Officer	Jason McDonald
National Service Officer Candidate	Kristel Crouse
National Service Officer Candidate	Reese Levasseur

### PVA Palo Alto Offices

VA Palo Alto Health Care System  
3801 Miranda Avenue (816)  
Building 7, Room E-118  
Palo Alto, CA 94304  
(800) 273-6789 (Toll-Free)  
E-Mail: [administration@bawpva.org](mailto:administration@bawpva.org)  
Website: [www.bawpva.org](http://www.bawpva.org)

VA Palo Alto Health Care System  
3801 Miranda Ave.  
Building 7 Room E-101  
Palo Alto, CA 94304  
(650) 493-5000 x65046 (Voice)

### PVA National Service Offices

Sacramento Office  
3046 Prospect Park Drive Room 120  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
(916) 364-6791 (Voice)  
(800) 795-3587 (Toll-Free)

Las Vegas Office  
6900 N. Pecos Road Room 1C248  
North Las Vegas, NV 89086  
(702) 224-9000 x14458 (Voice)  
(866) 734-0857 (Toll-Free)

## SPORTS & RECREATION



The Chapter and the SCI/D Recreation Therapists needed to be creative to come up with new ideas of how to serve our veterans through adaptive sports due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. With the commitment of the Sports and Recreation Directors and the Board, the Chapter has not only funded members to attend adaptive sports programs, but has hosted events at various sites in Northern California, Northern Nevada, and Hawaii. The organization recognizes the role that sports and recreation plays in the improvement of quality of life for veterans who remain active and involved in the community.

This year air rifle, shuffleboard, interactive arts, DISC. golf, boccia ball, table tennis, bingo clinics and more were programs sponsored by the Chapter to bring a larger variety of adaptive sports and recreation to our members. The adaptive sports clinics were offered both virtually and in person. We encourage family members and friends to come out and learn about adaptive sports. Family member support is essential in living an active and healthy lifestyle.

The Chapter is committed to supporting members to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games and Winter Disabled Sports Clinic. The National Veterans Wheelchair Games were held in person in Tempe, AZ July 7-12, 2022. The Winter Disabled Sports Clinic was held in Snowmass Village, CO March 25-31, 2023. The Chapter purchased more adaptive equipment to help assist with these events. This year, the Chapter also sponsored individuals to participate in quad rugby tournaments and golf championships.

The Chapter continues to support the SCI/D Center's Recreation Therapy Program by sponsoring weekly meals for inpatients, movie outings, gaming, inpatient socials, and more. The partnership between the Chapter and the recreation therapists at the SCI/D Center continues to promote improved quality of life for veterans with spinal cord dysfunction by hosting many adapted sports clinics at the VA Health Care System in Palo Alto.



## HOSPITAL LIAISON



The Chapter is located within the Spinal Cord Injury/ Dysfunction (SCI/D) Center at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System (VAPAHCS). In 2022-2023, the Chapter and the National Service Officers (NSOs) continued to work closely with SCI/D Center and VAPAHCS leadership to monitor the care of veterans using this facility. If issues arise, the PVA National Service Officer (NSO) would

resolve them as efficiently as possible. With the Chapter's close proximity to veterans utilizing the VA Health Care System, issues are able to be addressed in a timely manner. Therefore, the Chapter is able to advocate on behalf of the members' health care they receive at this facility. The expertise of the Chapter's leadership allows different perspectives to be presented to local VA leadership in regards to the health care received by veterans with spinal cord dysfunction. The Chapter is part of the monthly Leadership Meetings for the VA and SCI/D Center.

The Spokes for the VA Palo Alto Health Care System include Fresno, Honolulu, Mather, and Reno. This past fiscal year meetings, social gatherings, and adaptive sports clinics were held for veterans who receive care at the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System (Reno) September 26-27, 2022, for veterans who receive care at the VA Pacific Islands Health Care System (Honolulu) on October 12-15, 2022, for veterans who received care at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System (Palo Alto) on May 9, 2022 and for veterans who received care at the VA Central California Health Care system (Fresno) on June 5-6, 2023. The Chapter wants to make sure all of our members have access to the Chapter's programs. Local PVA members, VA staff, the NSO, and Chapter representatives attended these meetings and discussed issues that SCI/D veterans may be facing at these facilities or within the VA Health Care System of care overall. The meetings held at the VA Health Care System allows for open dialogue between all in helping to expeditiously resolve issues and inform veterans of any changes. The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter, INC. is truly grateful for the support of all the VAs who treat our veterans.

The Chapter and SCI/D Center at VAPAHCS also co-hosted the monthly Peer Mentoring Program - Education & Lunch and the MS Lunch & Learn for PVA Awareness month.



## MEMBERSHIP



The Chapter's membership is located predominantly in Northern California, Northern Nevada, and the Pacific Islands. The membership for the Chapter increased slightly during this fiscal year due to the support of VA Palo Alto Health Care System. Membership Directors Kory Amaral and Sebastian DeFrancesco made it their mission to increase membership throughout fiscal year 2022-2023. At the close of fiscal year 2022-2023 the Chapter had 519 members, but we see over 1,000 SCI/D veterans each year. Each year we celebrate the members who have passed at the SCI Memorial. The SCI Memorial was held in person and virtually on June 8, 2023 SCI/D Center in Palo Alto.

This year, the Chapter continued outreach to its members in the community by hosting membership gatherings and sports events in the Bay Area, Fresno, Hawaii, and Reno. Chapter staff and the Board Members continually visit both inpatients and outpatients that are in the SCI/D Center in Palo Alto. The Chapter provided holiday lunches for Veterans Day, Winter and Spring during this fiscal year. Catered lunches and dinners were held weekly at SCI/D Center in Palo Alto to ensure our veterans were getting a variety of food while an inpatient. Membership meetings were held in Fresno, Hawaii, Palo Alto, and Reno.

This year, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic less events were cancelled or postponed due to the restrictions being lifted at VAPAHCS. The Chapter decided to focus on its membership. Executive Director Amaral made an attempt to reach out to each member. Birthday phone calls were administered. Most members were reached and the Chapter was able to get important updates and to ensure the Chapter members were safe during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Executive Director Amaral also brought all issues and concerns to the appropriate

individuals that were presented by the veteran. The Chapter did whatever it took to reach out to our members to make sure we still have a great relationship.



## FUNDRAISING

PVA Chapters are responsible for maintaining a program to raise funds for the implementation of its programs. All the funds that support the programs of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area & Western Chapter, INC. (BAWPVA) are provided by a grant from the National PVA, grants the Chapter applies for, donations from donors, and other fundraising events hosted by the Chapter. All programs require financial support and the Chapter is responsible with providing support.

The 11th Annual Golf Tournament took place on November 7, 2022 at Cinnabar Hills Golf & Country Club. The Golf Tournament is held each year to raise funds for the Chapter's Sports and Research Programs. The Golf Tournament brought in over \$12,000.00. We changed the course this year to help cut cost. Cinnabar Hills Golf Club is a public course, so expenses were down, but the weather seemed to affect our turnout. Next year, the Golf Tournament will be earlier in the year, so there is no chance of rain.

The Chapter has continued a Direct Mail Campaign with previous donors. This allows the Chapter to keep supporters updated on Chapter activities. The Direct Mail Campaign was held semiannually in November and May.

Other fundraisers the Chapter participated in are car donations through the Care Donation Program, clothing donations through the Good Inspiring Veterans Everywhere (GIVE) Program, online shopping through Amazon Smile and iGive, and private donors. The Chapter received grants from the Safeway Foundation, Sereno Group Los Altos, Los Altos Sunset Rotary, and First Nation Group.

The Chapter maintained its accreditation from the Better Business Bureau. This year, the Board also decided to once again purchase the seal from the Better Business Bureau which allowed the Chapter to attract new donors and received more community involvement.





## COMMUNICATION

The Chapter is required to maintain a program to report its activities to its membership, other Chapters, the National PVA and National Service Officers. The Communication Program includes the quarterly newsletter (*The Bridge*), an electronic newsletter (*E-Bridge*), the Chapter website ([www.bawpva.org](http://www.bawpva.org)), and social media pages on Facebook and Twitter/X. The Chapter has received more donations by updating the website and being once again accredited by the Better Business Bureau. All of these outlets allow the organization to provide information on activities, events, and information to stakeholders, donors, and the public.

*The Bridge* and *E-Bridge* are available on the Chapter's website and are mailed out to the Chapter's members and donors who have requested to be on the mailing list. *The Bridge* and *E-Bridge* are emailed to National PVA's Executive Committee, all Chapter National Directors, and PVA Chapters. The Chapter's website continues to be the quickest way to get information out to our members and the public. Information about upcoming events and programs are available online. The Chapter's Facebook and Twitter/X pages assist in reaching out to the public through social media avenues.

Last year, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter, INC.'s (BAWPVA) Board of Directors decided to update the remaining founding documents. The Chapter's Policies and Procedures Manual was created in the 1980s and not much has been revised since then. Executive Director Amaral's goal when hired was to ensure all Chapter founding documents were updated to match regulations and standards in the present time.



## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

As with most PVA Chapters, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter, INC.'s (BAWPVA) Government Relations Program is divided into two programs: Legislation and Advocacy. Our Director of Government Relations for this fiscal year was Board Member Kevin Hoy, who has also serves as our liaison with the California State Veterans Commanders Council (CSVCC). Mr. Hoy were also responsible for tracking state and federal legislation of importance to Chapter members. Also, assisting this year was Mr. Tomasz Modrzejowski, Mr. Sebastian DeFrancesco, Mr. Kenneth Pollock, Mr. Chet Miller, and Ms. Jessica Greene.

On the Advocacy front, the National Advocacy Legislative Seminar was held February 27 to March 3, 2023 to advocate for veterans. The group met with 28 California and Hawaii representatives to discuss local issues. Although the Chapter did not meet with all representatives, we made sure the message was heard.

The Chapter continued to meet with Chapter members to advise them on issues of concern to their well-being as citizens with disabilities. Issues of concern to our members continue to be air travel, public transportation, fair housing, access to both public and commercial facilities, and accessible sidewalks/curb ramps. Cal Vet still has the Veterans Affordable Housing Program that partners with Homes for Families, a group responsible for providing low rent housing to veterans. Many of the services offered through Cal Vet are based on veteran-to-veteran. <http://www.calvet.ca.gov/calvetREN>.

On the legislative front, this year both the PVA National Organization and the Chapter remains committed to working with the new administration on all veterans' issues. The Chapter continues to follow all legislative updates for our members and keep them informed. The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter, INC. (BAWPVA) remains committed to assisting its members and others in creating an accessible environment either through direct advocacy, education, or the legislative process.



## SERVICE

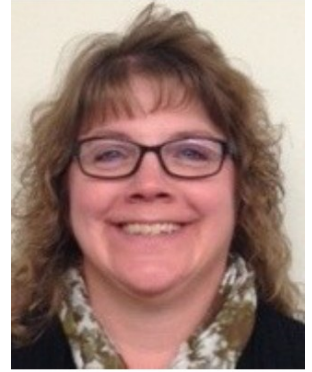
The PVA Veterans Benefits Department-Service Office continues to work diligently to secure veteran benefits and advocate on behalf of our nations' heroes and their dependents. The following information was provided by Tami J. Anderson, Senior National Service Officer and Area Manager for the West-North Area of the Western Region from the Paralyzed Veterans of America. .

The following accomplishments were achieved this past year at the Sacramento Service Office. Kristel Crouse, National Service Officer Candidate is in our Sacramento/Rancho Cordova office and is a U.S. Army veteran. The office was responsible for obtaining monetary awards from the Veterans Benefits Administration of \$1,323,143. 28 new target Powers of Attorney were obtained and 4 other types of new Powers of Attorney were obtained through June 30, 2023. There were 1,759 various forms of contacts made throughout FY 2022-2023 for members and those eligible for membership. 12 interviews were conducted by the Service Office (please note these numbers include members and non-members).

The following accomplishments were achieved this past year at the Palo Alto Service Office. Reese Levasseur is the new NSO Candidate in the Palo Alto SCI Office. Reese is training with Jean Dougherty, SBA and DeWayne Standifer, West Region Director is continuing to go TDY to work with him. 24 new target Powers of Attorney were obtained from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 with \$378,922 in awards.

If you have any questions, please reach out to: The West-Region Director is DeWayne Standifer, and he can be reached at DeWayneS@pva.org. The West-North Area Manager is Tami Anderson and can be reached at TamiA@pva.org.

Paralyzed Veterans Of America is a Veteran Service Organization (VSO) dedicated to serving our members and their dependents with the utmost care and compassion. PVA has continually put forth the effort of advocacy for our members in concern to health care and for Congress to fund the VA Staffing to increase more nurses in specialized nursing care. PVA has lead this fight to push congress to add additional nurses to the VA Spinal Cord Injury & Disease System of Care.



## CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION

The Chapter is required to maintain an Administration Program that is tasked with the overall management system of its operations. This year the chapter had one employee: the Executive Director. The Executive Director is tasked with the day-to-day operations of the Chapter and its programs. The Executive Director is tasked with ensuring that the Chapter adheres to all state and federal laws and guidelines and that all reports to the PVA National Organization are submitted in a timely manner. The Executive Director also assists members, volunteers, and Board of Directors with any needs that may arise.

The Board of Directors meet monthly to discuss Chapter policies and programs. Through their guidance, the Executive Director executes the programs for membership. The Board Members are active participants in the programs as well.

## CDCE

The Chapter continues to be an active participant in the VA Center for Development and Civic Engagements (CDCE) Program through the chapter's representative, Victor Escamilla. Mr. Escamilla attends quarterly meetings and informs the membership of any events and changes at the VA during monthly Board of Directors meetings.

CDCE at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System is committed to enhancing downtime for veterans using the facility by providing various events, cable television bedside, and day trips to different locations.



**The following pages contain the  
audited financial statements for the  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Bay Area and Western Chapter, INC.  
fiscal year July 2022 - June 2023**

THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA AND WESTERN, INC.  
A Non-Profit Organization

Statements of Financial Position  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023 and 2022

ASSETS

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 38,501	\$ 48,630
Investment in Mutual Funds	695,579	730,162
Contributions receivable	1,875	1,250
Prepaid Insurance	18,513	2,143
Deposit	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>754,468</u>	<u>782,185</u>
Property and Equipment		
Equipment	14,602	13,325
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>9,024</u>	<u>6,953</u>
	<u>5,578</u>	<u>6,372</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 760,046</u>	<u>\$ 788,557</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 21,119	\$ 5,298
Accrued expenses	<u>18,519</u>	<u>15,841</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>39,638</u>	<u>21,139</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	707,399	744,409
Temporarily restricted	<u>13,009</u>	<u>23,009</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>720,408</u>	<u>767,418</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 760,046</u>	<u>\$ 788,557</u>

THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA AND WESTERN, INC.  
A Non-Profit Organization

Statements of Activities  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023 and 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Support and Revenue		
Chapter contribution program	\$ 150,655	\$ 157,555
Donations	55,070	84,689
Designated donations	24,000	10,000
Fundraising	45,805	37,447
In-kind revenue, donated facilities	16,425	16,425
Interest income	254	7
Investment gain (loss), net	50,417	(120,595)
Net assets released from restrictions	-	-
	342,626	185,528
 Expenses		
Program Service:		
Membership and benefit	113,735	92,322
Public affairs	185,198	152,309
Research	8,174	868
	307,107	245,499
Support Services:		
General and administrative	42,459	43,301
Fundraising	40,070	37,465
	82,529	80,766
	389,636	326,265
 Change in net assets	(47,010)	(140,737)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	767,418	908,155
Net Assets, End of Year	720,408	767,418



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## Important Telephone Numbers, E-Mail Addresses, & Web Sites:



### Bay Area & Western PVA

Tele: 650-858-3936  
800-273-6789 (toll-free)  
E-Mail: [administration@bawpva.org](mailto:administration@bawpva.org)  
Web: [www.bawpva.org](http://www.bawpva.org)

### Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), Washington, D.C.

Tele: 800-424-8200 (toll-free)  
E-Mail: [info@pva.org](mailto:info@pva.org)  
Web: [www.pva.org](http://www.pva.org)

### Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) National Service Officers

Reese Levasseur, NSO Candidate, Palo Alto  
Tele: 650-493-5000, ext. 65046

Kristel Crouse, NSO Candidate, Sacramento  
Tele: 916-364-6791  
Tele: 916-843-2602 (toll-free)

Jason McDonald, NSO, Las Vegas  
Tele: 702-791-9000, ext. 14458

### U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Tele: 800-827-1000 (toll-free)  
Web: [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

### California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA)

Tele: 800-952-5626 (toll-free)  
Web: [www.cdva.ca.gov](http://www.cdva.ca.gov)

### Social Security Administration

Tele: 800-772-1213 (toll-free)  
Web: [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

### San Mateo County Commission on Disabilities

Web: [www.smco-cod.org](http://www.smco-cod.org)

### VA Palo Alto Health Care System

Tele: 650-493-5000  
SCI Out-Patient: ext. 65871  
W/C Repair: ext. 63235  
Social Work: ext. 64496  
OT: ext. 65604  
PT: ext. 65672  
Recreation: ext. 64353

### San Francisco VA Medical Center

Eva Woodward, LCSW, SCI Coordinator  
Tele: 415-221-4810, ext. 23470

### VA Northern California

Brian Tolentino, LCSW, SCI Coordinator  
Tele: 916-843-9130

### Fresno VA Medical Center

Anita Morris, LCSW, SCI Coordinator  
Tele: 559-476-7696

### Reno VA Medical Center

Beth Carbonneau, LCSW, SCI Coordinator  
Tele: 775-785-7075

### Honolulu Clinic

Erin Matsunaga, LCSW, SCI Coordinator  
Tele: 808-433-7853