



E-BRIDGE

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



Executive Director's Message

WRITTEN BY KORY AMARAL

As the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter continues to enjoy this warm weather, we encourage our members to attend some Chapter events. We are looking forward to sending 19 veterans to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games next month. Please refer to Page 7 for more information. The Chapter does have monthly clinics at the SCI/D Center in Palo Alto, CA. Let me know if any of our outpatient veterans would like to attend.

The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter covers many spokes sites and we are due to visit the catchment areas of Fresno and Sacramento. We are in the planning stages for membership meetings in those areas and we should be visiting at the end of the Summer. We look forward to meeting with our members soon.

On the last Thursday 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 Thursday, June 26, 2025. This month's topic will be about home care in the community from Firstlight Home Care. This is also a great way to interact with your fellow veterans. Please refer to Page 2 for more information.

If you need anything, 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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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 VA PALO ALTO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM'S SCI/D CENTER



Please join us the **LAST THURSDAY** of the month starting **February 27, 2025** in **Building 7, Room F-108 (Dayroom)** at **12:00 PM** for education and a peer support activity. This is a monthly program designed for SCI/D 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>



PAO ID85 - Last Updated 2-20-2025

June Calendar

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
JUNE 3

ADVOCACY LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR (OFFICE CLOSED)
JUNE 8 TO 14

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

BINGO & PIZZA NIGHT
JUNE 12

JUNETEENTH (OFFICE CLOSED)
JUNE 19

SCI PEER SUPPORT MENTORING PROGRAM - EDUCATION & LUNCH
JUNE 26

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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>

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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National PVA's Washington Update

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

House Passes PVA-Supported Legislation

On May 22, the House passed nine veterans-related bills, including two that address top PVA priorities. The first bill was the Veterans Accessibility Advisory Committee Act (H.R. 1147), which aims to enhance VA's accessibility for individuals with disabilities. It requires the VA to establish a new veterans advisory committee that would focus on improving access for disabled veterans to electronic information, benefits, services, health care facilities, and community care providers. The committee would issue reports identifying barriers and provide recommendations to improve accessibility.

Next, the House also passed the ASSIST Act of 2025 (H.R. 1364). Officially known as the Automotive Support Services to Improve Safe Transportation Act, this legislation aims to enhance the safety and mobility of disabled veterans by clarifying the vehicle modifications available to disabled veterans through VA's medical benefits package. Passage of this legislation would give VA greater flexibility to provide a wider range of vehicle modifications to meet veterans' needs.

A third bill of interest passed by the House was the CHIP IN for Veterans Act of 2025 (H.R. 217). This measure makes a pilot program established by the Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016 permanent. The CHIP IN program allows local communities to assist with the planning and construction of VA health care facilities.

A complete list of the bills passed can be found [here](#).

House Holds Oversight Hearing on VA's Adaptive Programs

On May 21, PVA Associate Legislative Director Julie Howell testified at a House Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing held by the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee titled, "Pushing VA Forward: Review of VA's Adaptive Programs for Disabled Veterans."

The first panel was comprised of VA witnesses, including Mr. Jason Latona, Assistant Director of the Loan Guaranty Services for the Veterans Benefits Administration; Dr. Rachel McArdle, Deputy Executive Director for Rehabilitation and Prosthetic Services for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA); and Dr. Joel Scholten, Executive Director of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services for VHA. The second panel witnesses were representatives from BraunAbility, Homes for our Troops, the Wounded Warrior Project, and PVA.

The policy areas covered during the hearing were VA's Automobile Adaptive Equipment (AAE) program, the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) program, and the VA Adaptive Sports Grant Program. PVA stressed the need for VA to make improvements for the delivery of benefits under both the AAE and SAH programs, highlighting barriers PVA members have experienced in accessing these programs. We also underscored the importance of adaptive sports for PVA members and other disabled veterans, drawing parallels to participation and improved mental health and clinical outcomes.

You can watch the hearing [here](#). You can read PVA's statement [here](#).

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Women Veterans' Day Mix and Mingle

HOSTED BY SANTA CLARA COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES OFFICE AND VA PALO ALTO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM



Take off your boots, grab a mocktail, and get ready to mix, mingle, and explore resources!

Thursday
June 12, 2025
2 - 6 PM

353 W. Julian St.
Oak Grove Room
San Jose, CA 95110

Together, Santa Clara County Veterans Services Office and VA Palo Alto Health Care System invite you to the Women Veterans Mix and Mingle!

Join us for an informative and engaging environment to connect with fellow Veterans, explore women's healthcare services available through VA Palo Alto, and engage with several community partners.



For more information on Women Veteran's healthcare at VA Palo Alto, visit: <https://bit.ly/3UTTo6b>



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
VA Palo Alto Health Care System

PAO ID141 • Recycle after 5-13-2025

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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Bingo & Pizza Night

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



PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA AND WESTERN CHAPTER'S



BINGO NIGHT

3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

Bingo at: 3:00pm
Pizza at: 4:30pm

MONEY PRIZES FOR EVERY ROUND!

SCI/D Dining Room



SCI/D
Spinal Cord Injury/
Disorders Center

Need More Information:
AMARAL@BAWPVA.ORG OR
(650) 858-3936

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National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG)

SPONSORED BY THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA AND THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

44TH ANNUAL

NATIONAL VETERANS
WHEELCHAIR GAMES

PLAY STRONG

MINNEAPOLIS, MN
JULY 17-22, 2025

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
[WHEELCHAIRGAMES.ORG](https://www.wheelchairgames.org)
#WHEELCHAIRGAMES

CO-PRESENTED BY:

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs PVA Paralyzed Veterans of America

Member Column

ADVOCACY LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

FROM JUNE 8 TO 14, THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA AND WESTERN CHAPTER WILL BE ATTENDING THE ADVOCACY LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

THIS YEAR, THE CHAPTER WILL BE SENDING 6 REPRESENTATIVES. WE HAVE 28 APPOINTMENTS IN 3 DAYS AND WE EVEN HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM HAWAII THIS YEAR. THE CHAPTER WILL CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE FOR OUR MEMBERS AND THAT INCLUDES PROTECTING SPECIALTY CARE WITHIN THE VA. WE KNOW OUR VETERANS PREFER THE VA AND WE MUST PROTECT THEIR CARE.

NATIONAL PVA IS CONDUCTING A PETITION TO PROTECT SPECIALTY CARE IN THE VA. PLEASE FOLLOW THIS LINK TO KNOW MORE: [HTTPS://WWW.VOTERVOICENET/PVA/PETITIONS/5455/RESP-OND](https://www.votervoicenet/pva/petitions/5455/resp-ond).



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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 540 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:

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