



# *E-BRIDGE*

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



## *Executive Director's Message*

**WRITTEN BY KORY AMARAL**

The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter just got back from the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG). We had a great time seeing over 500 athletes compete in many different sports. We are also grateful that we were able to support 15 veterans from the Chapter including 4 from Hawaii! Please see Page 7 for more details and pictures from the event.

The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter will be visiting Fresno on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 12:00 PM at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse. Please see Page 5 for more details. If you have not sent us your RSVP yet, please do so by Tuesday, August 12, 2025. We look forward to meeting with our members in that area.

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, August 28, 2025. This month's topic will be announced soon. This is also a great way to interact with your fellow veterans. Please refer to Page 2 for more information.

On Monday, October 20, 2025, the Chapter will be hosting our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament at Cinnabar Hills Golf Club. If you know golfers, please send them our way. See Page 7 for more details.

I will be traveling a lot in the next couple of months for work. 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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## 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 ID65 - Last Updated 2-20-2025

### August Calendar

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER (NSO) MONTHLY CHAT (VIRTUAL) AUGUST 12

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING (VIRTUAL) AUGUST 12

COOKING DEMO AUGUST 14

ANNUAL BANQUET AUGUST 16

FRESNO MEMBERSHIP MEETING AUGUST 19

BINGO & PIZZA NIGHT AUGUST 21

PVA SUMMIT AUGUST 23 TO 28

SCI PEER SUPPORT MENTORING PROGRAM - EDUCATION & LUNCH AUGUST 28

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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](http://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.**

### **HVAC Holds Full Committee Markup**

On July 23, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC) held a markup session to discuss and approve 25 veteran-related bills for the full House of Representatives to vote on when they return in the fall. Earlier this year, PVA testified on some of the bills considered at this markup, including the Service Dogs Assisting Veterans Act (H.R. 2137). PVA supported this legislation, which requires the VA to establish a competitive grant program to fund nonprofit organizations that provide service dogs to veterans with a variety of disabilities, such as mobility or vision impairments or PTSD. The bill was amended slightly, prior to the committee's approval, to clarify eligible organizations.

HVAC also reviewed and approved the Veterans' Assuring Critical Care Expansions to Support Servicemembers (ACCESS) Act of 2025 (H.R. 740), which would establish existing community care access standards as the baseline for veterans seeking care in the community, increase access to life-saving treatment programs for veterans with mental health conditions or addiction, and expand the list of criteria VA is required to take into account when determining whether it is in a veteran's best medical interest to make a community care referral.

We were disappointed that language addressing the access of Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs (RRTP) was not included in the bill they approved. This type of care is non-existent for veterans with spinal cord injuries and disorders within VA and the community and we have been advocating for greater access to it.

HVAC also approved the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act (H.R. 2148), which aims to support family caregivers of veterans by providing them with additional assistance as they transition out of caregiving roles. Provisions in the bill would provide former caregivers with bereavement counseling, funding to renew their professional certifications, and the ability to participate in employment assistance programs, like Military OneSource or the Department of Labor's, Veterans' Employment and Training Service. It also directs studies on the possibility of allowing caregivers to make contributions to Social Security and other types of existing retirement accounts, and the possibility of the VA incorporating former caregivers into the VA workforce as personal care attendants, enabling the VA to lessen staff shortages. Lastly, it gives caregivers who are not Medicare eligible the option to keep their CHAMPVA coverage for 180 days, if they need it.

A fourth bill, the Review Every Veterans Claim Act of 2025 (H.R. 2137), would limit the VA's authority to deny a veteran's claim solely based on the veteran's failure to appear for a medical examination associated with the claim. Thousands of veterans' claims for service connection, claims for increase, and for other benefits, like Total Disability Individual Unemployability and Aid and Attendance, have been denied solely due to a missed examination. There are many legitimate reasons why a veteran may not be able to attend a scheduled exam. We are also aware of numerous instances where VA contractors erroneously record the veteran as a "no show." Passage of this legislation will ensure that a missed exam isn't the only basis for denying a veteran's claim.

You can see the full list of bills that were reported out of committee and watch a recording of the hearing [here](#).

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## *Fresno Membership Meeting*

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

**PVA**

**FRESNO**  
*Membership Meeting*

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2025**

**MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING & LUNCH**  
12:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

**LOCATION: FLEMING'S PRIME  
STEAKHOUSE**  
639 EAST SHAW AVENUE SUITE 149  
FRESNO, CA 93710

RSVP BY  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025  
1 (650) 399-5296  
OR AMARAL@BAWPVA.ORG

**PVA**  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Bay Area & Western Chapter

### *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**



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

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## 13th Annual Golf Tournament

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



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

# 13TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT 2025

The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter is dedicated to the task of improving the quality of life of Veterans with paralysis due to spinal cord dysfunction and to the protection of their civil rights. We are committed to the duty of assisting paralyzed Veterans by advocating for unfettered access to VA health care and barrier-free access to the community.



Our goal is to ensure the fulfillment of the need for the health and well-being of our Members, and all paralyzed Veterans, through education, information and referral, medical research, and physical, psychological, and recreational therapy.



**Cinnabar Hills Golf Club**

23600 McKean Road San Jose, CA 95141

FROM  
11 AM to 7 PM

**Monday,  
OCTOBER 20, 2025**

SPONSORSHIPS  
ON BACK

**REGISTRATION :** <https://tournevents.com/bawpva13thannualgolftournament>

### Member Column

#### NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES (NVWG)

FROM JULY 16 TO 23, THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA AND WESTERN CHAPTER ATTENDED THE NVWG IN MINNEAPOLIS, MN.

SINCE 1982, THE NVWG HAS SEEN THOUSANDS OF VETERANS WHO COMPETE IN OVER 20 SPORTS. THIS YEAR, THE CHAPTER SUPPORTED 15 ATHLETES TO ATTEND THE NVWG WITH HELP FROM FIRST NATION GROUP.

NEXT YEAR THE NVWG WILL BE IN DETROIT, MI JULY 9-14, 2026.



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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 541 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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Building 7 Rm. E-118  
Palo Alto, CA 94304

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Palo Alto, CA 94304-0027

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