

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

## Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Annual Report





**PVA**  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  

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**Bay Area & Western Chapter**



# President's Message

*Dear PVA Members, Volunteers, Friends and Donors:*

It is the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter, Inc.'s (BAWPVA) pleasure to present to you our Annual Report for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025. As in past years, this year's budget was assembled by the Board of Directors (BOD) and the Executive Director to help guide us throughout the year.

This fiscal year, all COVID-19 restrictions at VA Palo Alto Health Care System were lifted and BAWPVA was able to get back to normal after five years. BAWPVA focused on our mission and programs, but most importantly we continued to advocate for our members' health care & civil rights and supported activities for our members. The BAWPVA Chapter hosted a caregiver and WISER (Women in SCI/D Empowerment Resources) event for PVA Awareness Month at Topgolf San Jose on April 30, 2025.

BAWPVA has members throughout Northern California, Northern Nevada, and the Pacific Islands. We don't want our members to face barriers because of where they reside so we also 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 (Hawaii, Mather, Palo Alto, and Reno), we worked to help ensure members receive quality specialized health care, one of the keys to maintain a healthy life. Membership meetings get bigger each year with growing participation from our members. BAWPVA staff, VA staff, National Service Officers (NSOs) and community partners are either on the call or attend in person to ensure our veterans have the resources they need.

As the President of the BAWPVA, I continue to believe that following the organization's mission and programs will allow us to be successful for the veterans we serve. I knew about the BAWPVA for many years but only became involved after I left my full-time job. I initially started volunteering with BAWPVA to help organize the inaugural golf tournament and found it was a natural fit for my skills and interests. I continued to become more involved in the chapter and in 2015, I was appointed to the BOD, making me the first woman to serve on the BOD. After several years as a board member, I eventually became the Vice President and now, the President of the BOD. I'm proud to be the first woman to lead our Board in the chapter's 63-year history and look forward to giving all veterans a voice, especially those who feel unheard. Being the only female in a group is almost normal for me so I'm used to it. I've never really paid that much attention to it. I still remember being the only girl in the community little league when I was a kid. I just wanted to play and the team welcomed me.

BAWPVA is a member of the Chamber of Commerce in Palo Alto and we hope to spread our mission through their events. BAWPVA is also accredited by the Better Business Bureau. We continue to work with young adults in the community by educating students on individuals with disabilities.

There are so many individuals who are involved to make BAWPVA thrive and I would like to thank the past and current Board of Directors, PVA members, volunteers, 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 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.



**Jessica Greene**

# Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter, INC. FY 2024-2025

## Officers

President	Chet Miller
Vice President	Jessica Greene
Secretary	Kyle Hansel
Treasurer	Tomasz Modrzejowski

## Board of Directors

Director	Demond Wilson
Director	Kevin Hoy
Director	Kevin Patton
Director	Michael Luberto
Director	Stephen Estrada

## Appointees

Directors of Sports & Recreation	Chet Miller, Kevin Hoy, Kyle Hansel, & Demond Wilson
Government Relations Directors	Kevin Hoy & Demond Wilson
Membership Officers	Kory Amaral & Chet Miller
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

West-South Area Manager	Jason McDonald
National Service Officer II	Kristel Crouse
National Service Officer II	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  
(650) 858-3936 or (650) 399-5296  
E-Mail: [amaral@bawpva.org](mailto:amaral@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 or  
(202) 416-1021

### PVA National Service Offices

Sacramento Office  
3046 Prospect Park Drive Room 120  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
(916) 364-6791 or  
(202) 416-1023

Las Vegas Office  
6900 N. Pecos Road Room 1C248  
North Las Vegas, NV 89086  
(702) 224-9000 x14458 or  
(202)416-6462

## SPORTS & RECREATION



The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter, INC. (BAWPVA) and the SCI/D Recreation Therapists at VA Palo Alto Health Care System continued to reach out to veterans to get them more involved at the hospital and in the community. With the commitment of the Sports and Recreation Directors and the Board, BAWPVA has not only funded members

to attend adaptive sports programs, but has hosted events at various sites in Northern California, Northern Nevada, and the Pacific Islands. BAWPVA recognizes the role that sports and recreation plays in the improvement of quality of life for the veterans we serve.

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

BAWPVA is committed to supporting members to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG) and National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic (NDVWSC). The NVWG were held in New Orleans, LA July 25-30, 2024. The NDVWSC was held in Snowmass Village, CO March 30 to April 5, 2025. BAWPVA purchased more adaptive equipment to help assist with these events. This year, BAWPVA also sponsored individuals to participate in quad rugby tournaments and para bobsledding events.

BAWPVA 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 BAWPVA 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 Paralyzed Veterans, Bay Area and Western Chapter, INC. (BAWPVA) is located within the Spinal Cord Injury/Dysfunction (SCI/D) Center at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System (VAPAHCS). In 2024-2025, BAWPVA 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 BAWPVA's close proximity to veterans utilizing the VA Health Care System, issues are able to be addressed in a timely manner. Therefore, BAWPVA is able to advocate on behalf of the members' health care they receive at this facility. The expertise of BAWPVA'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. BAWPVA 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, Hawaii, 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 13-17, 2024, for veterans who received care at the VA Pacific Islands Health Care System (Honolulu) on October 14-19, 2024, and for veterans who received care at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System (Palo Alto) on March 4, 2025. BAWPVA wants to make sure all of our members have access to BAWPVA's programs. Local PVA members, VA staff, the NSO, and BAWPVA 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.



BAWPVA and SCI/D Center at VAPAHCS also co-hosted the monthly Peer Mentoring Program - Education & Lunch and the PVA Awareness Month—Caregiver & Women in SCI/D Empowerment Resources (WISER) Event on April 30, 2025. We are looking forward to more collaboration in 2025-2026.



## MEMBERSHIP



The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter INC. (BAWPVA) membership is located predominantly in Northern California, Northern Nevada, and the Pacific Islands. The membership for BAWPVA increased slightly during this fiscal year due to the support of VA Palo Alto Health Care System. Membership Directors Kory Amaral and Chet Miller made it their mission to increase membership throughout fiscal year 2024-2025. At the close of fiscal year 2024-2025, BAWPVA had 540 members, but we see over 1,000 SCI/D veterans each year. Each year we celebrate the members who have passed at the SCI/D Memorial. The SCI/D Memorial was held in person and virtually on June 5, 2025 at the SCI/D Center in Palo Alto.

This year, BAWPVA continued outreach to its members in the community by hosting membership gatherings and sports events in the Bay Area, Hawaii, and Reno. BAWPVA staff and the Board of Directors continually visit both inpatients and outpatients that are in the SCI/D Center in Palo Alto. BAWPVA provided holiday lunches for Veterans Day and Winter 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 inpatient. Membership meetings were held in Hawaii, Palo Alto, and Reno.

BAWPVA decided to continue to work on membership this year. Executive Director Kory Amaral made an attempt to reach out to each member. Birthday phone calls were administered. Most members were reached and BAWPVA was able to get important updates and to ensure the Chapter members knew the latest. Executive Director Kory Amaral also brought all issues and concerns to the appropriate individuals that were presented by the veteran. BAWPVA 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 BAWPVA. All programs require financial support and the BAWPVA is responsible with providing support.

The 13th Annual Golf Tournament was postponed this year due to the fact that past golfers did not want to have an event at Topgolf. The 13th Annual Golf Tournament will be held on October 20, 2025 at Cinnabar Hills Golf Club. We look forward to hosting the event again to raise money for our programs that direct impact our members.

BAWPVA continued a Direct Mail Campaign with previous donors. This allows BAWPVA to keep supporters updated on programs and activities we offer our members. The Direct Mail Campaign is held semi-annually in November and May. BAWPVA continued to decide to only reach out to donors who have donated in the past 6 years to help cut expenses for the campaign.

Other fundraisers BAWPVA participated in are car donations through the Car Donation Program, clothing donations through the Good Inspiring Veterans Everywhere (GIVE) Program, online shopping through iGive, and private donors. BAWPVA received grants from the Safeway Foundation and First Nation Group. As well as large donations through Weldy Enterprises, INC., Landau Enterprises, INC., and the Margaret Seneshen Trust.

BAWPVA maintained its accreditation from the Better Business Bureau. This year, the Board of Directors also decided to once again purchase the seal from the Better Business Bureau which allowed the BAWPVA to attract new donors and received more community involvement. Donations were up this year from the COVID-19 Pandemic era.



## COMMUNICATION



The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter, INC. (BAWPVA) is required to maintain a program to report its activities to its membership, other PVA Chapters, the National PVA and National Service Officers. The Communication Program includes the quarterly newsletter (*The Bridge*), an electronic newsletter (*E-Bridge*), BAWPVA's website ([www.bawpva.org](http://www.bawpva.org)), and social media pages on Facebook and Twitter/X. BAWPVA 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 BAWPVA's website and are mailed out to the BAWPVA'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 PVA National Directors, and PVA Chapters. BAWPVA'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. BAWPVA's Facebook and Twitter/X pages assist in reaching out to the public through social media avenues.

In the year 2024-2025, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter, INC.'s (BAWPVA) Board of Directors decided to continue to update the remaining founding documents. BAWPVA's Policies and Procedures Manual was created in the 1980s and not much has been revised since then. Executive Director Kory Amaral's goal when hired was to ensure all BAWPVA's founding documents were updated to match regulations and standards in the present time. Hopefully this process will be completed in 2025-2026.

## 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 were Board Members Demond Wilson and Kevin Hoy. They both also serve as our liaison with the California State Veterans Commanders Council (CSVCC). Mr. Wilson and Mr. Hoy were also responsible for tracking state and federal legislation of importance to BAWPVA's members.



On the Advocacy front, the National PVA's Advocacy Legislative Seminar was held June 8-14, 2025 to advocate for veterans. The group contacted 28 California and Hawaii representatives to discuss local issues. Although BAWPVA did not meet with all representatives, we made sure the message was heard. The great news is that Kieran Woll from Hawaii joined us to meet with the representatives from Hawaii. This is the first time that BAWPVA had a member from Hawaii attend the seminar.

BAWPVA continued to meet with our 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 National PVA and BAWPVA remains committed to working with the new administration on all veterans' issues. BAWPVA 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 following information was provided by Tami J. Anderson, Area Manager for the West-North Area of the Western Region.

### **Sacramento Service Office**

The National Service Officer in the Rancho Cordova office is Kristel Crouse, and the Senior Administrative Assistant is Rachel Stant. Kristel graduated from the NSO candidate program this year.

The following accomplishments were achieved this past year:

- The office was responsible for obtaining monetary awards from the Veterans Benefits Administration of \$5,988,480.00.
- 32 new target Powers of Attorney were obtained, and 15 other types of new Powers of Attorney were obtained through June 30, 2025.
- There were 2,613 various forms of contact made throughout FY 2024-2025 for members and those eligible for membership. 87 interviews were conducted by the Service Office (please note these numbers include members and non-members).



### **Palo Alto SCI Service Office**

The National Service Officer is Reese Levasseur located in the Palo Alto SCI across from the Outpatient Clinic.

The following accomplishments were achieved this past year:

- The office was responsible for obtaining monetary awards from the Veterans Benefits Administration of \$1,566,926.00
- 77 new target Powers of Attorney were obtained, and 9 other types of new Powers of Attorney were obtained through June 30, 2025, 306 interviews were conducted by the SCI Service Office.

### **Clinics**

- The VA Mather has three ALS clinics and 3 SCI clinics monthly, which are covered by Kristel and one ALS clinic every other month at VA Martinez. The Palo Alto SCI Center has an ALS clinic every Thursday.
- The VA has also opened a VA Medical Center in Stockton, CA. They are currently working on an SCI team for a SCI Clinic, the social worker has been hired thus far.
- In addition to the above, we are assisting the VA San Francisco with both ALS and SCI Veterans as well as Veterans who live in Hawaii, Guam and the other Pacific Islands, which we have seen a slight increase from these areas.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Bay Area and Western Chapter, INC. (BAWPVA) is required to maintain an Administration Program that is tasked with the overall management system of its operations. This year BAWPVA had one employee: the Executive Director. The Executive Director is tasked with the day-to-day operations of BAWPVA and its programs. The Executive Director is tasked with ensuring that BAWPVA adheres to all state and federal laws and guidelines and that all reports to National PVA 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 (BOD) meet monthly to discuss BAWPVA policies and programs. Through their guidance, the Executive Director executes the programs for membership. The BOD are active participants in the programs as well.

## **CDCE**

BAWPVA continues to be an active participant in the VA Center for Development and Civic Engagements (CDCE) Program through BAWPVA's representative, Victor Escamilla. Mr. Escamilla attends quarterly meetings and informs the membership of any events and changes at the VA during monthly Board 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 2024 - June 2025**

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

Statements of Financial Position  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025 and 2024

ASSETS

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 75,416	\$ 68,621
Investment in Mutual Funds	659,449	702,219
Contributions receivable	-	-
Prepaid expenses	<u>20,328</u>	<u>10,543</u>
Total current assets	<u>755,193</u>	<u>781,383</u>
Property and equipment		
Equipment	14,147	14,147
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>11,842</u>	<u>9,896</u>
	<u>2,305</u>	<u>4,251</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 781,356</u>	<u>\$ 817,102</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 7,340	\$ 8,398
Accrued expenses	<u>11,709</u>	<u>19,148</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>26,088</u>	<u>34,469</u>
Net assets		
Unrestricted	717,815	689,844
Temporarily restricted	<u>19,197</u>	<u>66,868</u>
Total net assets	<u>737,012</u>	<u>756,712</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 781,356</u>	<u>\$ 817,102</u>

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

Statements of Activities  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025 and 2024

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Support and revenue		
Chapter contribution program	\$ 151,267	\$ 150,655
Donations	108,226	73,922
Designated donations	30,000	70,000
Fundraising	20,622	40,746
In-kind revenue, donated facilities	16,425	16,425
Interest income	379	424
Investment gain (loss), net	72,231	73,640
Net assets released from restrictions	-	-
Total Public Support and Revenue	399,150	425,812
Expenses		
Program services:		
Membership and benefit	166,129	138,137
Public affairs	171,788	151,251
Research	1,330	8,356
Total program services	339,247	297,744
Support services:		
General and administrative	43,708	50,443
Fundraising	35,895	41,321
Total support services	79,603	91,764
Total expenses	418,850	389,508
Change in net assets	(19,700)	36,304
Net assets, beginning of year	756,712	720,408
Net assets, end of year	737,012	756,712

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



### Bay Area & Western PVA

Tele: 650-858-3936  
650-399-5296

E-Mail: [amaral@bawpva.org](mailto:amaral@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, Palo Alto  
Tele: 650-493-5000, ext. 65046

Kristel Crouse, NSO, Sacramento  
Tele: 916-364-6791

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

Vacant, LCSW, SCI Coordinator  
Tele: 808-433-7853