



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 our Fresno Membership Meeting last month. We had 12 veterans attend the event which is a new record. We are excited that our veterans in that area want to attend more events in the near future. Next up, the Chapter will be in Reno, NV for the PVA Reno Takeover September 12-16, 2025. We are looking forward to the event. Thank you to the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Nevada Chapter for their support. See Page 5 for more details.

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, September 25, 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 13th Annual Golf Tournament at Cinnabar Hills Golf Club. If you know golfers, please send them our way. We are also looking for in-kind donations. This is a word-of-mouth fundraiser, and we are relying on the community for support. The Chapter would love to raise \$25,000 for its programs. See Page 7 for more details.

I will still be traveling this month 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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ABOUT US

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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 ID65 - Last Updated 2-20-2025

September Calendar

LABOR DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)
SEPTEMBER 1

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER (NSO) MONTHLY CHAT (VIRTUAL)
SEPTEMBER 9

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING (VIRTUAL)
SEPTEMBER 9

PVA RENO TAKEOVER
SEPTEMBER 12 TO 16

BINGO & PIZZA NIGHT
SEPTEMBER 18

SCI PEER SUPPORT MENTORING PROGRAM - EDUCATION & LUNCH
SEPTEMBER 25

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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.

PVA is looking to the community to donate lightly used clothing and other items. Through the GIVE Program, we would love to expand the program by bringing in more funds for our veterans. PVA has developed a relationship with a thrift store in Fresno, CA. Although the store is located in Fresno, there are donation pickups throughout the Bay Area.

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



National PVA's Washington Update

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

SVAC Approves 25 Veteran-Related Bills

On July 30, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (SVAC) marked up and approved 25 veterans-related bills, including an amended version of the Veterans' ACCESS Act (S. 275). This legislation aims to improve the provision of care and services through VA's Community Care Program. The bill contains several provisions to enhance access to community care for veterans. They include:

- Codification of eligibility standards for access to community care from VA.
- Standardized screening processes for veterans to participate in mental health treatment programs.
- A pilot program allowing veterans to access mental health and/or substance abuse programs in the community without a referral.
- Tracking of wait times and care availability for mental health programs.
- Increased transparency in the decision-making process regarding care options for veterans, including the appeals process for denied community care.

The House Veterans' Affairs Committee approved its version of the bill (H.R. 740) on July 23. The amended version of the bill removed language helping veterans seeking care through the VA's Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs (RRTP). Not only did the Senate bill retain these provisions, but it also added language requiring the VA to create a plan and establish a pilot to provide access to VA mental health RRTP for veterans with spinal cord injuries and disorders (Sec. 202). Additionally, the amended Senate bill includes a provision (Sec. 305) that we believe will help improve disability-related access for our members not just at VA facilities, but also with the department's community care partners.

A second bill approved by the committee was the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement (3R) Act (S. 879), which would provide greater support for the family caregivers of veterans. It would ensure family caregivers enrolled in CHAMPVA remain enrolled for up to 180 days following their dismissal from the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, unless they have been dismissed for fraud, abuse, or mistreatment. Other provisions in the bill would offer bereavement counseling, job training assistance, and help with professional relicensing costs to help caregivers ease into the workforce or into retirement once their time as a caregiver has concluded. Caregivers are often the most important component of rehabilitation and maintenance for veterans with catastrophic disabilities, and their welfare directly affects the quality-of-care veterans receive.

SVAC also approved the Service Dogs Assisting Veterans Act (S. 1441), 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. This bill would require nonprofit organizations seeking a grant to submit an application to the VA Secretary that includes a description of the training that will be provided by the organization to eligible veterans; the training of dogs that will serve as service dogs; the aftercare services that the organization will provide for the service dog and eligible veteran; the plan for publicizing the availability of service dogs through a marketing campaign; and the commitment of the organization to have humane standards for animals.

Finally, the committee approved the Veterans Accessibility Advisory Committee Act (S. 1383), which aims to enhance VA's accessibility for individuals with disabilities. It mandates 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. This is a companion measure to a House bill that was passed back in May.

Much of the discussion during the relatively short hearing centered on the ACCESS Act, while the remainder of the legislation was agreed to en bloc without discussion. A recording of the hearing and a complete list of the legislation is available [here](#).

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PVA Reno Takeover

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

★ ★ ★ 6th Annual ★ ★ ★

PVA

RENO Takeover

<p>SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025</p> <p>MOVIE & SNACKS 11:30 AM MOVIE: JURASSIC WORLD: REBIRTH LOCATION: CINEMARK CENTURY PARK LANE 16 2040 CENTURY WAY RENO, NV 89502</p> <p>PVA MEMBERSHIP DINNER 6:00 PM LOCATION: WILD RIVER GRILLE 17 SOUTH VIRGINA STREET RENO, NV 89501</p>	<p>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025</p> <p>RENO ACES BASEBALL GAME 12:05 PM LOCATION: GREATER NEVADA FIELD 250 EVANS AVENUE RENO, NV 89501</p>
<p>MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025</p> <p>PVA MEMBERSHIP MEETING & LUNCH / ADAPTIVE RECREATION CLINIC (PICKLEBALL & CORNHOLE) 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM LOCATION: EVELYN MOUNT NORTHEAST COMMUNITY CENTER 1301 VALLEY ROAD RENO, NV 89512</p>	

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RSVP TO KORY AMARAL BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2025
1 (650) 399-5296 OR AMARAL@BAWPVA.ORG

Sponsors

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



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

E-BRIDGE

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



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

FRESNO MEMBERSHIP MEETING

ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2025, THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA AND WESTERN CHAPTER HOSTING OUR FRESNO MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT FLEMING'S PRIME STEAKHOUSE IN FRESNO, CA.

THIS YEAR, WE HAD 22 ATTENDEES INCLUDING VETERANS, CAREGIVERS, FAMILY MEMBERS, VA STAFF, AND OTHERS. THIS WAS OUR LARGEST EVENT IN THAT AREA AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO MORE EVENTS SOON.

THE CHAPTER IS ALSO EXCITED THAT OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER, AUSTIN PARKER, WILL BE OUR REPRESENTAIVE FOR THE FRESNO CATECHMENT AREA. HE IS MOTIVATED AND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO SERVING OUR VETERANS FOR THE NEXT 2 YEARS.



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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:

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

