FY' 20 Annual Report



Jul 01 2019—Jun 30 2020

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

The Paralyzed Veterans of America California Chapter (PVACC) has a rich history dating back to the initial incorporation of the National Organization back in 1946. It is one of the first original chapters and have served thousands of veterans over its long and prosperous tenure. The California Chapter is a member of The Paralyzed Veterans of America, chartered by the United States Congress. It is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the needs of its members, all of whom have catastrophic paralysis caused by spinal cord injury and/or disease. The main office is located in Ernest Bors M.D. SCI Center at the Tibor Rubin VAMC in Long Beach. We welcome you all to stop in and say "Hi" anytime.

Board of Directors

Elmer Jacobs — President
Jose Reynoso — Vice President
Major Lewis — Treasurer
Bob Molinatti — Secretary
Jose Reynoso — National Director

Directors

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Teresa Gaspar Lamont Jacobs Lance Toguchi Charles Walker

Administrative Staff

Dick Fulton — Executive Director Elizabeth Lara — Office Manager

PVA National Service Officers / Areas of Support

Enrique Chavez — Senior NSO Ernest Bors M.D. SCI Center *Inpatient Benefits*Allen Williams / Joseph Phillips - Los Angeles Regional Office *Los Angeles, Kern, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Hawaii*Robert Kamai / Eric Meekins San Diego Regional Office *San Diego, Riverside, Imperial, Orange, San Bernidino*

Chapter Administrative Office

5901 E 7th St Bldg 150, Room R-204 / Long Beach CA 90822-5713 Phone: 562 826-5713 / Toll Free: 877 PVACC-31 /Fax: 562 508-3335 E-Mail: info@pvacc.org

www.pvacc.org

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



I am very excited to have completed my first full year as your chapter president, and what a unique year it turned out to be indeed. When myself and the rest of the Board of Directors were elected by you all back in July of 2019 we had no real idea what to expect. I will say that the experiences I have had with this chapter have more than surpassed anything I thought I might encounter. I'm especially proud of the California Chapter BOD and staff how they have worked diligently during this pandemic to address, resolve and complete the many challenges encountered on a daily basis. I have had the privilege of speaking with so many of you members directly and you have no idea how each phone call brightens my day. I truly look forward to speaking to members on an almost daily basis. I hope to speak with each and every individual member of our nearly 650 member family, and you can reach out to me directly anytime by simply calling our office and asking for me.

All the issues currently impacting our world and nation in these unchartered times with COVID-19 have changed howe we do thing, and I do not think our lives will ever be the same. In addition to learning how to effectively run a chapter and make the chapter become a model for other chapters to look up to, we all had to learn how to operate in a remote/telework environment as well. Life never stops sending us curveballs, but I am confident that as fellow Spinal Cord Injury and Disorder veterans we can improvise and overcome any situation successfully.

This annual report is a brief recap of our first year as your new chapter leaders, and hopefully it gives you a small glimpse into what we do, why and how. It is really just a top level view, and if you are really interested in seeing the inner workings of this amazing chapter, be sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, website and our bi-monthly Momentum newsletter where we are constantly sharing the latest happenings. I also welcome you to join any of our weekly zoom meetings, monthly Board meetings, join a committee or two and put your special skills to work in making the chapter even better. We are only as good as the combined efforts of everyone working to make the organization amazing. I truly feel we are on path to becoming one of the premier chapters in the nation.

Whether providing financial grants to members to allow them to get out and have some fun, encouraging you to have lunch with you fellow members or veterans at a local restaurant near you, providing toiletries and snacks to patients in the wards, or providing members and hospital staff with PPE to wear when out in public, we are here for you. Please don't be shy and hesitate to reach out to myself or any fellow director. We are here to serve you, and welcome you reaching out for any sort of question. If we don't have the immediate answer for you, we will get one for you.

I look forward to communicating with each of you soon and often. Please do not hesitate to pick up the phone or email and say "Hi"

Your Humble Servant

Elmer Jacobs Jr.

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President

The California Chapter adheres to PVA national guidelines requiring member service in eight key program areas: Administration, Advocacy, Communication, Fundraising, Liaison, Service, Membership, and Sports and Recreation.

These program responsibilities are facilitated in many ways to meet the needs of our membership. Although recommendations are provided from PVA national regarding these responsibilities, the California Chapter, like the other 32 regional chapters, relies on the direction and coordination of its Board of Directors and internal administration to govern this activity. During Fiscal Year 2020 services were expanded in each of these mandated programs as mentioned on following pages:

ADMINISTRATION

The chapter headquarters are conveniently located on the campus of the Tibor Rubin Veteran's Administration Long Beach Health Care System inside the Ernest Bors M.D. Spinal Cord Injury Center, centrally located on the 2nd floor of Building 150. The California Chapter is serviced administratively by a Board of Directors, volunteer members, multiple committees, a full time Office Manager, and in September the chapter hired their first Executive Director to help facilitate the 8 key program areas, and assist the Board of Directors in taking the chapter to the next level. This cadre of individuals work together collectively and separately to ensure our membership receives the highest compliment of services we can financially provide. The administrative element of the California Chapter is responsible for maintaining day-to-day chapter operations. This includes all reports due to the national office, updating membership contact information, along with tracking and preparing all the various items that impact the other seven key program areas.

This year the chapter focused on automation and Off-The-Shelf opportunities to streamline many functions previously done in-house. These included a new email domain "@pvacc.org," accounting firm support, CRM utilization, a voice answering service, digital mapping service, cloud based filing system, video conferencing, social media profiles to name a few. Many of these were done pre COVID, and helped ensure the successful transition to working at home after the chapter vacated the offices in the hospital on 13 March..

We consistently worked to ensure we were working to fulfill our requirement to serve our members to the fullest: We put our new board of directors through a large training program with PVA national, and the state of California. Topics ranged from Governance, Financial, and Parliamentary procedure to Sexual Harassment Training. We also created a required Strategic Plan to govern the next 3 years of chapter development. We coordinated with other chapters to learn best practices, and met with our National Leaders often on a weekly basis to ensure we were on the right path to success.

ADVOCACY

The chapter's Advocacy Program is essential to ensure members, as well as those in the community, are represented at the local, state, and federal level. It is the role of the Board of Directors and staff to advocate for policies and laws which foster and strengthen the rights of those with SCI/D and those with disabilities in general.

President Jacobs and National Director Reynoso stayed abreast of current affairs regarding the legislative bodies and the chapter. PVACC members are served by a multitude of national legislative officials (Congressmen and Senators) across Central and Southern California. PVACC must keep informed regarding veterans related activities and upcoming legislative efforts both locally and nationally. Annually, we attend a Government Relation Seminar in Washington DC and meet with our federal representatives across 28 congressional districts on a myriad of issues, including veteran's benefits, healthcare, The Independent Budget and matters directly affecting our membership of more than 20,000 nationwide. In early Spring PVACC sent 4 volunteer representatives to attend that conference and meet with our Congressional members on the Hill..



Our Legislative Committee in Washington DC learning the latest issues impacting our Veterans, then meeting with all our California Representatives in person.

The chapter works with the National Office to continually fight for veteran's benefits. Some of the hilited policy priorities PVA is championing for the second session of the 116th congress are:

Protect Access to VA's Specialized Services

strophically Disabled Veterans

Protect and Increase Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act

Improve Access to VA's Long-Term Services and Supports

Access to IVF

Improve Access to Air Travel for People with Disabilities

Benefits for the Surviving Spouses of Cata- Improve Benefits for Catastrophically Disabled Veterans

> Care for Women Veterans with SCI/D Preserve and Strengthen Financial & Health Security for People with Disabilities

Disaster Response and Recovery that Meets the Needs of People with Disabilities

COMMUNICATIONS

Sharing what is going on across the chapter with our members is critical to keeping them engaged and active participants. Whether through the newsletter, website, social media platforms, or good old fashioned phone calls, the chapter is working nonstop to keep communication lines open with 100% of our 650 members. Especially with COVID 19 and isolation, we have realized the importance of keeping in touch with our members.

Along with an entirely new Board of Directors and Executive Director came a brand new look and feel to the way we communicated with our members. Our long running newsletter "The Bulletin" was renamed MOMENTUM!! an effort to stress how dedicated we are to going forward. MOMENTUM!! is available digitally and in print to best meet the varied needs of our readers. This year we featured the National Guard, US Space Force, the US Army and with Navy, Air Force and USMC issues following.





The website www.pvacc.org also underwent a major overhaul. Now our members have direct access to grant applications, contacts for various adaptive sporting organizations, and a multitude of other information that will hopefully help them in their everyday life.

members are active supporters of.

Lastly, we have been working hard at keeping our activities current and updated on our social media platforms. This year we focused on both Facebook and Instagram and recently got or 500th follower on Instagram and 800+ followers on Facebook. We are hopeful for over 1,000 on each by next year. Then we can also start slowly focusing on Twitter, LinkedIn, and whatever new social media platforms arise that our

The bottom line is that we need to be prepared to communicate openly and transparently with all of our 650 members in whatever way works best for each of them..

FUNDRAISING

PVACC is an IRS 501(c)(3)non-profit, charitable organization and is registered as an official charity in California as the California Paralyzed Veterans Association, Doing Business As Paralyzed Veterans of America California Chapter. In FY20 we will be filing with the State of CA to simply be filed as the later. PVACC receives no federal funding or federal grant support. Corporate sponsors, foundation grants, families and individuals who contribute to PVACC make our mission possible. All of PVACC's fundraising efforts are conducted in accordance with state of California and federal solicitation guidelines. We meet the stringent standards of the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance.

Thank you to all our great sponsors in 2020. On line giving has made it so easy for individuals to donate at any time in any amount. We also incorporated a simple text to give platform allowing anyone to donate by simply texting "PVACC" to 24365, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We are also thankful organizations like Network for Giving, Amazon Smile, Facebook and many others make direct donations to the chapter so easy as well.

Changes in the regional economy have created higher demands on our community based sponsors, family and corporate foundations. In light of this, PVACC actively submits grant applications for funding consideration with a focus on organizations whose mission closely matches our own. We also continue to have great success in our partnership with the National PVA Wheels Helping Warriors program to process the donations of vehicles of all types.

PVACC will accept donations, endowments, bequests, stock transfers and other planned giving donations. If you wish to consider creating a Living Trust, Charitable Remainder Trust or other living will, contact the chapter office for details.

Thank you to our many generous individual and corporate donors this year:

Christy Westphal Chase, Inc.

David Morehouse David May II Foundation
David Rose Edison International

Gertrude Czarnecke Fidelity Charitable

Glen Hiner Glenn L. Silverii & Associates
Joshua Voltmer Long Beach Masonic Lodge #327
Judi Fulton New Creation MH

Judi Fulton New Creation MH
Linda Morin On EBikez

O Gomez

Victoria Bui

Tory Luke Torston

Louise Shumate Philanthropy International Trust Account

Louise Young-Place United Way

Manuel Ordaz Huntington Beach Veterans Day Car Show

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Neal Williams

LIAISON

Through Liaison programs we focus on building strong relationships across 3 main cross sections: local VA, local communities and local non profit organizations. All with the goal of bettering lives for our members.

The local VA Hospitals and SCI/D Center

One of PVACC'S primary missions is to maintain a program that provides liaison with VA healthcare facilities and institutions where members receive healthcare services and work with other veteran service organizations.

The relationship between the Veteran's Administration Long Beach Health Care System and the Chapter is a long and symbiotic one. The Hospital has always provided accommodations for the chapter, while the chapter has always provided for the other than medical needs of the patients.

PVACC's continued involvement shows our willingness to maintain a long-term program geared towards the education and treatment of paralysis so nurses and physical therapy students are appropriately trained in the specialized area associated with our disabilities. This ensures that our members treated by those trained in this specialized field receive the best care possible. This is an investment in the future health and treatment of our members and others with spinal cord injury or disease.

Community Support

We have also started building a strong relationship with local community hospitals and rehab centers in our efforts to find veterans who may not be aware of their veteran benefits and VA access. We meet with local city governments veteran committees and are working on growing a strong community awareness through school programs, parades, and numerous meetings and gatherings with various city organizations.

Building community partnerships is paramount to our success as a chapter as well. Whether at a state nursing home or mentoring disabled youth, PVACC is committed to giving back through volunteerism and philanthropy. We believe this the cornerstone of bringing disability awareness to our community. PVACC proudly supports multiple community and local veteran organizations across Southern California advocating for Disability Services and the Veterans Benefits. Through our involvement, PVACC is able to forge ahead and make a positive difference in the disabled and veteran communities. We are currently working with Rotary Clubs in Long Beach and Signal Hill,, the Bixby Knolls Kiwanis, along with multiple local DAV, VFW and American Legion chapters/posts.

Partner Organizations

Often overlooked in the nonprofit world is the partnership formed with like organizations. PVACC is proud to work hand in hand with many top tier non profits that have similar goals and much needed specialization which allows our members a greater variety of opportunities to experience. We are extremely proud of our strong ties and support to many local, and national organizations.

Disabled Sports USA Angel City Sports

The Triumph Foundation U.S. Adaptive Recreation Center

Rancho Los Amigos Foundation Adaptive Adventures

Ranger Road countless more......

SERVICE

Within our catchment area, PVA maintains 3 Service Offices which have National Service Officers (NSO) assigned to help with any benefit needs. One office is located in the Long Beach SCI center and the other two are located in the Los Angeles and San Diego Regional Offices. The Regional Offices have their own areas of responsibility which are listed below.

Our service officers assist hundreds of southern California veterans every year to improve their quality of living through assisting veterans with VA claims to help ensure the members get the proper disability rating they deserve along with any entitled benefit they may be entitled including survivors' benefits, compensation, pension, education, loan guarantees,



California Chapter

automobile adaptation grants, specifically adapted housing grants, prosthetics and medical care all making a huge improvement on the veteran's well-being.

In FY20, the Long Beach Office had 2,281 new contacts with 66 New POA's, 49 being member eligible, with a total award of \$5,056,717. The Los Angeles Office had 3,467 new contacts, with 45 New POA's, 15 being member eligible, with a total award of \$4,370,267. The San Diego Office had 4,220 contacts, with 30 new POAs, 14 being member eligible, with total award of \$3,861,704.



President Elmer Jacobs, Vice President Reynoso, Executive Director Dick Fulton, Secretary Bob Molinatti and Director Teresa Gaspar smile during the Christmas Celebration

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We also provide Service programs ensuring members are being checked in on, getting the meds they need or other interactions with the hospital. Under this service umbrella is where we are able to provide necessary financial hardship grants to members who have found themselves in tough situations and need some outside support and realize the chapter is there for them.

VOLUNTEERS

While not one of the 8 mandated programs from national, our chapter could not exist without our volunteer program and our amazing volunteers. Every facet of the chapter relies on volunteers. Without our amazing volunteers many of our chapter programs simply would not exist. PVA has a collaboration of nearly 30 registered individuals that contribute to the success of our Chapter with over 4000+ individual volunteer hours this year. Their service and dedication is a true asset to our organization. Each volunteer is to be commended for their time and contribution in serving our veterans in the Southern California Region.

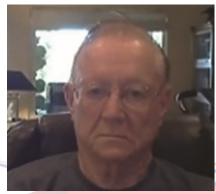
With the onset of COVID our volunteers never missed a beat. They call members to do monthly "wellness checks" and run our valuable food distribution network ensuring any members (and anyone the local community for that matter) are matched up with the right food pantry and get weekly deliveries scheduled wherever needed. Volunteers call members and wish 'Happy Birthday' on the members birthday, and even help with reaching out to our elected representatives. In short, we have an amazing pool of volunteers and expect to see that pool grow in the coming months.



Adam Wolf



John Oppenheim



Darryl Spellacy



Michael Moriel



Michael Whittaker



Art Lyles

MEMBERSHIP

Serving our members is the cornerstone of PVACC's focus. The purpose of our Chapter is geared toward promoting membership involvement in our various programs. The Chapter's membership efforts are therefore concentrated on providing programs and services to our members. We serve members living across 30+ states and 3 foreign countries.

PVACC has made it a priority to educate our members about the various benefits and services available to them. The Chapter is also a major community resource contact for our members. PVACC maintains direct communication with our National Headquarters and the PVA Regional Service Office.

IN MEMORY OF OUR MEMBERS THEY WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN

From July 1st 2019 to June 30th 2020, to our deep regret, 29 members of our PVACC family passed away. We salute the following comrades for their service to our country and our Chapter. May they all rest in peace.

Wesley Burton
Trevor Cullen
Samuel Davis
Glenn Dyer
Michael Forte
David Greene
Patrick Halloran
Henderson Harding
Donald Harris
Joseph Hassan
James Kissamitakis
Henry Leutz
Al SmithLewis
Angela Madsen
~

David Meiklejohn
James Moses
Steven Moss
Pamela Netter
Jimmie Norris
Manuel Ordaz
Carmen Ortiz
Clifford Overton
Paul Rodgers
Carey Sellers
Frederick Smith
James Strachan
Donald Ward
Gregory Winterbottom

At the time of publication, here is the PVACC membership composition (Members: 632):

Age Range	Total		Pe	riod of	Service	To	otal	
25-34	7		Wo	World War II			3	
35-44	38		Korean Conflict				27	
45-54	63		Vie	etnam Er	ra	2	299	
55-64	149		Pea	acetime		2	233	
65-74	217		Gu	Gulf War			144	
75-84	113							
85-94	29	М						5
95 and Over	2	F 44		■ Gender	,			
Not Available	14	0	100	200	300	400	500	

Race	Total
Asian or Pacific Islander	23
Black not Hispanic/Latino Origin	89
Hispanic/Latino	80
Native American or Alaskan Native	14
Other	15
White not Hispanic/Latino Origin	311
Not Available	100

No 367 Yes 265

Vehicular Other Traumatic Injury Violence Medical/Surgical Complications Sports/Recreational Flying/Falling Object Unknown Pedestrian 0 30 60 90 120 150 180

Multiple Sclerosis Other Amyotrophic diseases Poliomyelitis Syringomyelia Spinal Stenosis

Type of SCD (Count: 192)

SPORTS & RECREATION

Adaptive Sports & Recreation has always been a huge part of every PVA chapter across the nation. Our chapter is no different. This year we hosted our 5th annual Adaptive Sports Expo in partnership with the Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center.. Nearly 50 vendors shared their programs with over 750 participants over two days. This was the first time we did a two day event by adding a "Marina Day" where participants got to Kayak, scull, paddleboard and use hand cycles. Day 2 had exposition sports including wheelchair basketball, tennis, badminton, and more. Participants played and ate and learned about many local organization offering amazing adaptive programs.

The solid partnership between the Chapter and the amazing Therapy Staff at the Ernest Bors M.D. SCI Center at the Tibor Rubin VAMC in Long Beach has made this event one of the top Adaptive events in Southern California.











SPORTS & RECREATION (CONTINUED)

MONTHLY EVENTS

Every week, the chapter partners with the recreational therapists and other nonprofit organizations across southern California to provide great activities for members and patients from ping pong, to rowing and sailing, to handcycling and wheelchair basketball. We also get our member out across the state doing anything they can imagine from sky diving to LeMons racing, to ballroom dancing and everything in between. Sports and Recreation are a vital portion of PVACCs monthly activities.

36TH NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games are presented WHEELCHAIR GAMES each year by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), are open to all U.S. military veterans who use wheelchairs for sports competition because of spinal cord injuries, amputations, certain neurological conditions or other mobility impairments. The 20198 event was in Louisville Kentucky. The Games feature competition in a dynamic group of 17 events. This week-long event is the largest wheelchair sports event in the country. Nearly 20 athletes from PVACC attended, and received over almost \$15,000 in grants from the chapter to help with their costs. Many prepared all year for this event and is a highlight of the year for them.

COVID-19

When COVID-19 struck the nation, multiple planned events had to be cancelled and the chapter had to retool and rethink how to best support our members and find ways to keep them busy and active. We created virtual BINGO games, and Virtual Scavenger hunts for our members, we played games over zoom, and created a recurring weekly BINGO session as well.

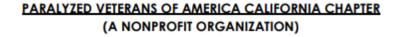
As members found the ability to venture out more, we were right there to support them financially if they wanted to go camping or biking, or even to drive in theaters for entertainment. While we were not able to support members going to huge events due to the lack of events happening, we were still able to figure out how to provide entertainment options for our members to help keep them active in times of mass social distancing.



PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA CALIFORNIA CHAPTER (A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION)

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION JUNE 30, 2020 AND 2019

		2020	2019
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	675,713	\$ 167,021
Marketable securities		794,419	1,476,901
Receivable from members		3,998	-
Prepaid expenses		3,885	 12,579
Total current assets		1,478,015	1,656,501
OTHER ASSETS			 5,000
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	1,478,015	\$ 1,661,501
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
LIABILITIES:			
Accounts payable	\$	11,962	\$ 2,500
Credit card payable		120	-
Accrued Wages		18,475	 -
TOTAL LIABILITIES		30,557	 2,500
NET ASSETS:			
Net assets without donor restrictions		1,447,458	1,659,001
		1,447,458	1,659,001
TOTAL NET ASSETS	_		



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS		WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS		TOTAL	
SUPPORT AND REVENUE						
Contributions	\$	20,612	\$	-	\$	20,612
Interest Income		338		-		338
Dividend Income		11,664		-		11,664
National PVA contributions		142,290		-		142,290
In-kind contributions		24,570		-		24,570
Other income		2,512		-		2,512
Net assets released from restrictions				-		-
Total support and revenues		201,986		-		201,986
NET REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN FROM MARKETABLE SECURITIES		(19,668)				(19,668
TROM MARKETABLE SECORITIES		(17,000)				(17,000
		182,318		-		182,318
EXPENSES						
Program services						
Membership service		59,452				59,452
Liaison		86,965				86,965
Communication		47,256				47,256
Advocacy		28,117				28,117
Sports & recreation		63,996				63,996
Total program services		285,786				285,786
Support services General and administrative		97,766				97,766
Fundraising		10,309				10,309
Total support services		108,075				108,075
Total expenses		393,861			_	393,861
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		(211,543)		-		(211,543
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR		1,659,001		-	_	1,659,001
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$	1,447,458	\$	_	\$	1,447,458



Paralyzed Veterans of America

California Chapter

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.PVACC.org

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