

FY' 2022-2023 Paralyzed Veterans of America California Chapter Annual Report

July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023



Paralyzed Veterans of America

California Chapter

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 PVA national organization in 1946. It is one of the first original chapters and has served several thousands of veterans over its long and prosperous tenure. The California Chapter is a member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America and was chartered by the United States Congress and signed into law by President Nixon on August 12, 1971. PVA California Chapter is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the needs of its members, all of whom have paralysis caused by spinal cord injury and/or disease, ALS or recent veterans who have Multiple Sclerosis. The main office is located at the Tibor Ruben VA Medical Center in Long Beach, CA inside the Earnest Boars MD spinal cord injury center.

Officers:

Jose Reynoso – President/ National Director

Bob Molinatti –Vice President

Teresa Gaspar –Treasurer

Artis Flanagan – Secretary

Board of Directors:

Charles Whitehead

Lamont Jacobs

Sarah LaBrada

Leif Meisinger

Administrative Staff

Martha Varela – Executive Director

PVA National Service Officers

Ryan Williams — NSO Ernest Bors M.D. SCI Center *Inpatient Benefits*

Alan 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 Bernardino

Chapter Administrative Office

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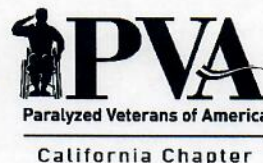
HISTORY OF THE “FIRST” PVA CHAPTER



The Paralyzed Veterans of America California Chapter has a long and historic legacy as the first incorporated Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America. On January 18, 1946, in the Recreation Hall of the Red Cross, seventy paraplegic patients of the Birmingham General Hospital met in Van Nuys, California. The Center used the work of Doctor Ernest Bors (1900–1990) who was one of the foremost experts on neurology in traumatic spinal cord injury. Dr. Bors had developed a holistic multidisciplinary approach for treating spinal cord injury, that is still used in care centers today. Military doctors from around the world visited Birmingham General Hospital to learn about this new traumatic spinal cord center. After the war on 31 March 1946, the Hospital was turned over to the Veterans Administration and renamed Birmingham Veterans Administration Hospital. Dr. Bors was instrumental in the development of the National Paralyzed Veterans organization. The chapter was chartered in 1946 under the name Birmingham Paralyzed Veterans Association. When the Paralyzed Veterans of America national organization was chartered in 1947, the Birmingham PVA became one of eight original Chapters, and was the only chapter serving veterans west of the Mississippi River. The VA Hospital closed in 1950, the Vets at Birmingham were moved to the Veterans Administration Long Beach Hospital along with the chapter administrative offices where they still exist today. Shortly after the move to Long Beach, the Chapter changed their name to the “California Paralyzed Veterans Association.” pulling away from the national organization where they continued to independently serve veterans for 12 years from 1951-1963 before rejoining the national organization as the Paralyzed Veterans of America California Chapter. Today, The Spinal Cord Unit at the Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center bears the name of Dr. Bors in recognition of all the work he has done for the Veteran Spinal Cord community.



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**



Chapter Programs

The PVA California Chapter adheres to PVA national guidelines requiring member service in 5 key program areas: *Liaison, Membership, Sports and Recreation, Advocacy, and Communication.*

Liaison (Long Beach VA Hospital/SCI Center)

PVA California Chapter serves to coordinate and communicate with the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA Health Center and other veteran's health services which directly affect our membership. PVA California Chapter currently has full-time National Service Officers who assist our members, ensuring they apply for and receive their entitled VA benefits. We assist and remain available to assist our members as needed throughout the process.

Communications

PVA California Chapter maintains active communication with our membership and the disabled community through a variety of ways. PVA California Chapter hosts an active website that provides service links to a variety of disability resources. We also produce a periodic newsletter, hold meetings of the membership and work with local disability organizations to ensure national and local information regarding disabled issues are provided to our membership.

Membership (New Members / Deceased Members)

PVA California Chapter maintains an active membership base throughout our region. We provide membership opportunities to qualified veteran members and those interested in our programs (associate members). We actively pursue new members (which now include veterans with MS & ALS), volunteers, and supporters.

Sports & Recreation (Joe Fox Reimbursement Program)

PVA California Chapter maintains an active sports and recreation program for our members, and the disabled in our region. This program provides tangible health benefits, support, opportunities, and camaraderie for all involved. PVA California Chapter provides reimbursement to our members to participate in a variety of adaptive sporting events, health and wellness programs, and local recreational activities, including the VA's big six games.

Advocacy (2023 Priorities)

PVA California Chapter advocates for our members and the SCI/D community by remaining cognizant of local and national disability issues. We remain actively vigilant in assisting and representing our members regarding anything affecting their civil rights when issues regarding disability arise. PVA California Chapter also maintains a vocal and visible presence on disability related in partnership with our National PVA office and local issues in the community.

Liaison

PVA California Chapter serves to coordinate and communicate with the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA Health Center and other veteran's health services which directly affect our membership. PVA California Chapter currently has full-time National Service Officers who help ensure our members receive their entitled VA benefits. NSO's help members file VA claims, monitor hospital activity, and obtain legal aid for claims and appeals.

Long Beach VA Hospital and SCI/D Center

One of PVA California Chapter's primary missions is to maintain a program that provides liaison with the VA health care facilities and institutions where members receive healthcare services. Members are encouraged to work closely with their PVA veteran service organization. The relationship between the Veterans' Administrations Long Beach healthcare system and the PVA California 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. Last year, we provided much-needed hygiene items, toiletries, snacks, and other misc. products. PVA California Chapter's continued involvement shows our willingness to maintain a long-term program geared toward the education and treatment of paralysis, supporting the important training doctors, nurses and physical therapy students receive in the specialized area associated with spinal cord injury/disease. This ensures that our members are treated by those trained in the specialized field and 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 continue building a strong relationship with local community hospitals, rehab centers and care programs to find veterans who may not be aware of their veterans benefits and VA access. We meet with local city, state and government officials, and local veteran services organizations working to grow a strong community awareness through collaborative programs, events, meetings, and gatherings with various veteran serving organizations.

Building community partnerships is paramount to the success as a Chapter as well. PVA California Chapter is committed to giving back through volunteerism and philanthropy. We believe this is the cornerstone of bringing disability awareness to the community. PVA California Chapter proudly supports multiple community and local veteran organizations across Southern California advocating for disability services and the veteran's benefits period through our involvement, PVA California Chapter can forge ahead and make a positive difference in the disabled veteran communities we are currently working alongside Rotary Clubs in Long Beach and Signal Hills, the Bixby Knolls Kiwanis, along with multiple local VFW and American Legion posts.

Partner Organizations

Often overlooked in the nonprofit world is the partnership formed with like organizations. PVA California Chapter is proud to work hand in hand with many top tier nonprofits 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 including:

Angel City Sports Foundation

Rancho Los Amigos Foundation

The Triumph Foundation

Challenged Athletes Foundation

Operation Confidence

Frank Clark Foundation

American Legion Newport Beach Post 291

American Legion Huntington Beach Post 133

Veterans Stand Together

Wilderness Institute -Kiwanis Club -Wheel to the Sea



Communication

Communication with our members is a core mission of the chapter. Experiencing the entire year virtually made us relook the way we accomplished this mission. We no longer have the luxury of waiting for our members to come to us and initiate communication before or after a medical appointment. Which made us realize in the past we really were only communicating with a small percentage of our members as most of them did NOT come into our office to chat. We split up the 600+ members across all the directors and a small group of volunteers and started to call each member we had a good phone number on every month as part of our "Buddy" or "Wellness" checks. Everyone who made the calls got as much out of connecting with our members as much as the members seemed to appreciate the phone call.

Momentum Newsletter & Website

Over the past few years, the newsletter and website have been the primary means of communicating with our members. In fiscal year 2022-2023 we continued to publish 'MOMENTUM' every 3 months for our members and continued our focus on each of the various branches of service as a theme for each issue. Towards the end of the fiscal year, we contracted with a local Veteran Serving art organization in Long Beach to give Momentum a facelift while highlighting new board leadership and highlighting some of the activity's members were slowly able to attend after the pandemic restrictions were lifted in most communities across the state of California.

Constant Contact

Roughly twice a week we also send some basic information out to our members via an email blast. We continue to use 'Constant Contact' to send professional emails to all our members with valid email accounts letting them know about important upcoming events, community activities and/or other important opportunities happening in various communities across the state of California. This included important information from our partner organizations who also began hosting events over the past year.

Birthday Club

In addition to our wellness checks, every member received a personal "birthday card" sent to them on their birthday from the "Birthday Crew" manned by the new Executive Director and by fellow chapter members who volunteer their time to connect with fellow members on their birthday and wish them kind words on their special day. This simple change opened the door of communication to members who found themselves isolated due to the pandemic the previous fiscal year. It also provided members with the opportunity to update addresses (email), and phone numbers in the event there was a change in information. And in some cases, loved ones were able to call in and report when a loved one passed away.

Membership

PVACC maintains an active membership base throughout our region. We provide membership opportunities to qualified veteran members and those interested in our programs. We actively pursue new members, volunteers, and supporters. 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.

PVA California Chapter has made it a top priority to recruit new members this past fiscal year, particularly our new MS members, Women Veterans, and new younger members. The Chapter has set an exciting new goal of recruiting 5 new members a month or roughly 60 new members a year. At the end of FY 22-23, the PVA California Chapter had 46 new members, just shy of our goal, but leaps and bounds from the previous year's 16 new members. At the time of this publication, we had 610 total PVA California Chapter members.

In Memory Of:

From July 1st, 2022, to June 30th, 2023, with deep regret, 21 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.

Greg A'Lurede

Augustine Martinez

James Miller

Bruce McDougal

Daniel VanHorn

Roberto Aguirre

Arthur Perez

Timothy Evans

James Iler

Edward Beck

Toki Katsuki

Eulalio Arenas

Thomas Kress

Jose Rodriguez

JC Nix

Danny Meador

Walter Mager

Karen Lee

Stanley Sklute

Lloyd Roberts

Donald Grubbs

From July 1st, 2022, to June 30th, 2023, we had 46 new members join the California Chapter:

<i>Eric Reyes</i>	<i>Vivian Murray</i>	<i>Matthew Blakeman</i>	<i>Ronnie White</i>
<i>Charles Pensavalle</i>	<i>Kenneth Nabor</i>	<i>Jeffrey White</i>	<i>Joseph Saldana</i>
<i>Craig Wanner</i>	<i>Matthew Ashley</i>	<i>Jaime Silva</i>	<i>Roland Bombardier</i>
<i>Thomas Bellone</i>	<i>Kevin Zanders</i>	<i>Sara Fox</i>	<i>Wilfred Phillips</i>
<i>Otis Hodges</i>	<i>David Toma</i>	<i>Joseph Shepard</i>	<i>Francis Takahashi</i>
<i>Alma Carr</i>	<i>Peter Tuck</i>	<i>Suzanne Hoey</i>	<i>Juan Gloria</i>
<i>John Atkinson</i>	<i>Steve Salazar</i>	<i>Samuel Keyhea</i>	<i>True Spence</i>
<i>Charles Lester</i>	<i>Joseph Scrivner</i>	<i>Alexander Habeeb</i>	<i>Fatu Olomanu</i>
<i>Tonya Cueva Leon</i>	<i>Gene Santee</i>	<i>Calixtro Garcia</i>	<i>John Dautremont</i>
<i>Robert Wilson</i>	<i>Glenn Bryant</i>	<i>Adriel Arenas</i>	<i>Arnold Atakhanian</i>
<i>Darnell Wilson</i>	<i>Sesser Durden</i>	<i>David Womer</i>	<i>Benjamin Willis</i>
<i>Kevin Smith</i>	<i>Charles Hackett</i>		



(Lewis Main turned 93 years young this September)

Sports and Recreation

PVA California Chapter maintains an active sports and recreation program for our members, and the disabled community in our region. This program provides tangible health benefits, support, opportunity, and camaraderie for all involved. PVA California Chapter provides reimbursement to our members to participate in a variety of recreational programs. A strong and active program of the chapter, Sports and Recreation partner opportunities came back this year. PVA California Chapter sponsors the VA's 6 Big Games: The National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Portland Oregon, the National Disabled Veterans Golf Tournament, The Summer Sports Clinic in San Diego California, Golden Age Games, the Creative Arts Festival, and the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Joe Fox Reimbursement Program

The Joe Fox Reimbursement Program was named in honor of Joe Fox, past National Director of the California Chapter. Some exciting new changes were made to the Joe Fox Reimbursement Program this past year which included providing our members, particularly first-time members, and members in financial need, with up to a total of \$1K in reimbursements for attending various social recreational activities and sporting events during the fiscal year.

Dodger Baseball Tickets

We were able to once again this year send out 10 PVACC members to 10 Dodger home games. This partnership with the Los Angeles Dodgers allowed our members and their families the opportunity to get back out and watch some exciting Dodger baseball all while enjoying time out with family and friends. We look forward to expanding this relationship next year and attend other Veteran sponsored Dodger events to that highlight the outstanding service of our military members.



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. As Government Relations Director, Teresa Gaspar has worked to take this mission to the next level. The Chapter has a committee of dedicated volunteers who meet with southern California legislators and stay abreast of current legislative affairs impacting our members 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 the PVA 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. In early Spring PVACC received PVA legislative training and then held ZOOM meetings with our elected representatives. We look forward to attending Advocacy Week 2023 to meet with our Congressional members on the Hill face-to-face.

2022-2023 Advocacy Priorities:

Protect the Rights of People with Disabilities (Improve Access to Air Travel, Increase Disability Access, Improve Access to Social Security Benefits, Increase Employment Prospects for Veterans), Protect Access to VA's Specialized Health Care Services (Staffing & Infrastructure), Expand Access to VA Long Term Services & Supports (Facility Based Long Term Care, Home & Community Based Services), Improve VA Benefits & Health Care Services for Paralyzed Veterans and their Survivors (Survivor Benefits, Transportation, Life Insurance, Home Modification Grants, Health Care & Benefits for Women).



Our AGRD team looks forward to returning to D.C. in person in June 2023 for more meetings with our elected officials.

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, CALIFORNIA CHAPTER
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>Assets</u>		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 194,743	\$ 309,839
Investments	875,588	804,304
Prepaid expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>5,703</u>
Total current assets	<u>1,070,331</u>	<u>1,119,846</u>
Total assets	<u><u>1,070,331</u></u>	<u><u>1,119,846</u></u>
 <u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	17,100	5,643
Credit card payable	9,175	14,421
Accrued wages	3,865	7,321
Deferred revenue	<u>21,555</u>	<u>12,555</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>51,695</u>	<u>39,940</u>
Total liabilities	51,695	39,940
Net Assets		
Net assets without donor restrictions	1,018,636	1,079,906
Total net assets	<u>1,018,636</u>	<u>1,079,906</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u><u>\$ 1,070,331</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,119,846</u></u>

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, CALIFORNIA CHAPTER
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2022

	Net assets without donor restrictions	Net assets with donor restrictions	2023 Total	2022 Total
<u>Revenue and other support</u>				
PVA grant	\$ 140,268	\$ -	\$ 140,268	\$ 147,187
Contributions	19,785	-	19,785	24,288
Interest and dividends	23,794	-	23,794	44,756
Unrealized gain (loss)	62,924	-	62,924	(208,804)
Special events, net of direct costs totaling \$29,559	-	-	-	10,489
In-kind contributions	10,100		10,100	10,100
Long term capital gains	4,001		4,001	41,367
Net assets released from restrictions	-	-	-	-
Total revenue and other support	260,872	-	260,872	69,383
<u>Expense</u>				
<u>Program services</u>				
Advocacy, liaison and service	95,749	-	95,749	111,230
Membership	46,915	-	46,915	50,832
Communication	35,858	-	35,858	50,001
Sports and recreation	44,075	-	44,075	99,562
Total program services	222,597	-	222,597	311,625
<u>Supporting services</u>				
General and administrative	73,578	-	73,578	74,771
Fundraising	25,967	-	25,967	30,582
Total expense	322,142	-	322,142	416,978
Change in net assets	(61,270)	-	(61,270)	(347,595)
Net assets, beginning of period	1,079,906	-	1,079,906	1,427,501
Net assets, end of period	\$ 1,018,636	\$ -	\$1,018,636	\$ 1,079,906

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, CALIFORNIA CHAPTER
STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Description	Program Services				Supporting Services			
	Advocacy Liaison Service	Membership	Communication	Sports and Recreation	Total Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	Total
Salaries and wages	\$ 49,092	\$ 15,341	\$ 19,944	\$ 15,341	\$ 99,718	\$ 38,354	\$ 15,343	\$ 153,415
Payroll taxes	4,795	1,476	1,844	1,476	9,591	3,690	1,473	14,754
Employee benefits	1,188	365	457	365	2,375	916	365	3,656
Total compensation	55,075	17,182	22,245	17,182	111,684	42,960	17,181	171,825
Program expenses	6,899	6,804	2,800	18,146	34,649	-	-	34,649
Awards and grants	6,000	-	-	-	6,000	-	-	6,000
Office expense	5,790	1,781	2,227	1,781	11,579	4,454	1,781	17,814
Professional services	9,355	2,878	3,598	2,878	18,709	7,196	2,880	28,785
In-kind rent	3,282	1,010	1,263	1,010	6,565	2,525	1,010	10,100
Equipment lease	4,123	1,268	1,586	1,268	8,245	3,171	1,269	12,685
Insurance	2,784	857	1,071	857	5,569	2,143	855	8,567
Banking fees	2,441	953	1,068	953	5,415	1,221	991	7,627
Conferences and meetings	-	14,182	-	-	14,182	-	-	14,182
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	9,908	-	9,908
Total expenses	\$ 95,749	\$ 46,915	\$ 35,858	\$ 44,075	\$ 222,597	\$ 73,578	\$ 25,967	\$ 322,142

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, CALIFORNIA CHAPTER
STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

Description	Program Services				Supporting Services		
	Advocacy Liaison Service	Membership	Communication	Sports and Recreation	Total Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising
Salaries and wages	\$ 55,591	\$ 17,372	\$ 22,584	\$ 17,372	\$ 112,919	\$ 43,432	\$ 17,372
Payroll taxes	4,529	1,394	1,742	1,394	9,059	3,484	1,393
Employee benefits	2,019	621	777	621	4,038	1,553	621
Total compensation	62,139	19,387	25,103	19,387	126,016	48,469	19,386
Program expenses	16,080	18,089	12,045	69,775	115,989	-	-
Office expense	11,408	3,510	4,388	3,510	22,816	8,775	3,509
Professional services	8,840	2,720	3,400	2,720	17,680	6,800	2,721
In-kind rent	3,282	1,010	1,263	1,010	6,565	2,525	1,010
Equipment lease	4,310	1,326	1,658	1,326	8,620	3,315	1,326
Insurance	2,233	687	859	687	4,466	1,719	686
Fundraising	-	-	-	-	-	-	751
Banking fees	2,938	1,147	1,285	1,147	6,517	1,469	1,193
Conferences and meetings	-	2,956	-	-	2,956	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	1,699	-
Total expenses	\$ 111,230	\$ 50,832	\$ 50,001	\$ 99,562	\$ 311,625	\$ 74,771	\$ 30,582
							\$ 416,978



Paralyzed Veterans of America

California Chapter