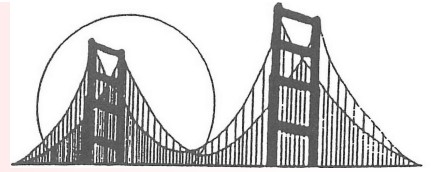


E-Bridge



Bay Area & Western Paralyzed Veterans of America

E - B R I D G E

February 2012

Volume 2, Issue 4

President's Message Richard Kratt

We are expecting to see some possible issues with wheelchair repair. Greg Rosales has really spoiled us during the years he has run the repair shop. However, he is getting a well-deserved promotion and changes are going to be made.

Initially, there will be no drop-in service. Repairs will be made on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday by appointment only. Other emergencies will be handled by vendors if available.

I am sure that we will have some problems during the early days of this transition. If you encounter any serious problems, please document everything and contact the office. It is important for us to have this information so we can establish the need for having someone there full time and availability for drop-ins. We depend on our members to keep us

informed of these issues so that we can address them.

It is also important to inform us of any issues you have in regards to your health care in a timely manner. We cannot help to resolve these issues if we do not find out about it until after a lengthy amount of time has passed. We have an annual site visit conducted by our national organization, and this is our chance to bring these issues up. So please, let us know.

We are having a membership meeting in Fresno on March 1st. I hope if you live close enough you will take the time to come out and speak with the chapter and VA representatives in attendance.



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House VA Subcommittee Reviews Implementation of "VOW to Hire Heroes Act"

On December 15, the House VA Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held an oversight hearing to learn about the VA's implementation of the recently enacted "VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011." Representatives from the VA

and the Department of Labor (DOL) were invited to testify for this hearing. The "VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011" was signed into law in November.

"I can't stress enough that the proper implementation of this law is

House VA Subcommittee Reviews Implementation of “VOW to Hire Heroes Act” *(continued)*



extremely critical, and as such I want to put both agencies on notice that this will be this Subcommittee’s top priority in the next session of Congress,” stated Rep. Marlin Stutzman (R-IN),

Chairman of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. “We need to identify any obstacles now so that our veterans can take full advantage of this jobs law.”

One major provision of the legislation is the temporary extension of Montgomery GI Bill benefits to eligible veterans to receive up to one year of training at a community college or technical school for in-demand occupations. Eligible veterans would have to be between the age of 35 and 60, be unemployed, and not have eligibility for other VA education programs.

The legislation also includes measures to increase accountability for the agencies programs that are intended to help the unemployed veteran. As an example, the

legislation requires the Department of Labor to track what happens to veterans who receive counseling, training and placement. Additionally, DOL must show many eligible veterans find jobs within 90 days of completing the program, their median salary, and what percentage of training graduates are able to obtain the credentials needed to work in the skill they just learned.

Additionally, the legislation provides tax credits to employers who hire veterans. This was a major initiative of the Administration. The legislation also makes participation in the Transition Assistance Program, managed by DOL, mandatory for all servicemembers.

Chairman Stutzman indicated that implementation of this law will be the top priority of the Subcommittee. Proper implementation of this law will help Congress attain the goal of reducing unemployment among veterans to levels below the national unemployment rate.

Wijit Hosts PVA Members at McClellan Aerospace Museum

On January 18th Wijit invited Bay Area & Western PVA members to the McClellan Aerospace Museum to view a demonstration of the Wijit and to also have a free tour of the aerospace museum. There were about 15 members, along with State Senator Ted Gaines, in attendance for this event.

The Wijit, a unique lever driving and braking system, attaches to your wheelchair boosting your driving, steering and braking capabilities. Steer clear of touching the wheels.

The chapter originally connected with Wijit representatives at the Abilities Expo in San Jose.

They offered to hold this event in order to demo their product to our membership.

Please keep reading future issues of *The Bridge* and the *E-Bridge* to

find out about future events. To find out more about Wijit visit wijit.com.



BAWPVA Board Members, Senator Ted Gaines, and Wijit Representatives



SAVE THE DATE

Bay Area & Western PVA's
2nd Annual Golf Tournament

September 20, 2012

Harding Park Golf Course
San Francisco

Contact: Rebecca Sherman 1-800-273-6789
golf@bawpva.org



Fresno Membership Meeting


When: March 1, 2012
11:00am - 2:00pm

Where: VA Central California Healthcare System
2615 E. Clinton Ave.
Fresno, CA 93703

RSVP: No Later Than February 24th
1-800-273-6789
administration@bawpva.org




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information!



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