

American Veterans
United, Inc.
P.O Box 249
Moorpark, CA 93020
Fein: 46-1323725

Fall 2023
VETNEWS
A Publication of
American Veterans United Inc.



American Veterans United, Inc.

Central Coast, Moorpark, Orange County
"A California Non-Profit Corporation" FEIN: 461323725
"God Bless You and the United States of America"

Our Organization

We are committed to work with veterans and our active duty military that served or are currently serving in a combat or non-combat status from all US military service branches and with their families. Our primary efforts are focused towards obtaining benefits working with the Veterans Administration (VA), Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and California Department of Veterans Affairs (CALVET) organizations for veterans, regardless of when or where they served, or the branch in which they served.

THESE ARE YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS & TEAM MEMBERS.

Frank Renteria - President	Tommy Lara – Director Area 1 & Sergeant at Arms
Clettus McDonell -Vice President Area 1	Blas Sanchez - Director Area 1
Vacant-Vice President Area 2	Colleen Graven– Director Area 2
Tom Munoz-Vice President Area 3	Jim Hughes - Director Area 2
Henry Alfaro - Coordinator	Danny Golson- Sergeant at Arms Area 2
Linda Alfaro - Coordinator	Tony Bacolot -Director Area 3
Suzanne “Sam” de St. Jean - Secretary	Art Cordova – Director Area 3
Silvia Bacolot - Treasurer	Raul Guzman -Director Area 3
Anabel Gutierrez - Assistant Secretary	Al Mares - Director Area 3
Fred Cobb– Director Area 1	Joan Mercado - Director Area 3
Glen de St Jean - Director Area 1	Mark Rodriguez- Sergeant at Arms Area 3
Roy Hale - Director Area 1	(Updated 11/15/23)
Rusty Hobbs-Director Area 1	

MEETINGS:

Area 1 on the 4th Saturday of every month
Central Coast General Meeting
11 AM– 12 PM
American Legion Post 534
145 W. Clark Ave. Orcutt, CA 93455

Area 2 on the 3rd Saturday of every month
Moorpark General Meeting
11AM—12 PM
Tierra Rejada Golf Club
15187 Tierra Rejada Rd, Moorpark, CA 93021

Area 3
Orange County General Meeting on the 2nd Saturday of every month
11 AM—12 PM
American Legion Post 132
143 S. Lemon, Orange, CA 92866

Board of Directors:

(Please see monthly AVU Calendar on our websites for dates, times and locations).

Elections & Nominations Announcement

Designated Directors shall serve a term of 1, 2 or 3 years.

Nominating by Committee: The President shall appoint a committee to nominate candidates for election to the board at least 90 days before the date of any election of Directors. The nominating committee shall make a report at least 60 days before the date of the election.

Members representing 5% of the voting power may nominate candidates for Directors by petition. On the timely receipt signed by the required number of Members, the Secretary shall cause the names of the candidates named on the it to be placed on the ballot along with the names of the candidates chosen by the nominating committee.

A Letter of Intent to Run for Election must be submitted directly to the Nominating Committee.

WELCOME & CONGRATULATIONS OUR NEW BOD & TEAM



**Glen (left) swearing in Rusty Hobbs,
Area 1 New Director**



**Anabel Gutierrez,
AVU New Assistant Secretary**



**Area 3 (left to right), Tom Munoz, President, Raul Guzman, Director,
Joan Mercado, New Director, Tony Bacolot, Director,
Silvia Bacolot, Treasurer,
Mark Rodriguez, New Sergeant At Arms, Al Marez, New Director**

AREA 1 VETS BBQ SEPTEMBER 28, 2023



Despite a rainy day, AVU Area 1 BBQ was a success. Thanks to our customers who purchased a Tri-tip sandwich meal, our volunteers who helped with the BBQ and tickets and the people who bought Raffle Tickets & 50/50. Special thanks to the American Legion Post 534 for their help with set up & tear down.

Total profit was \$4,476.12!
Great Job!



Raffle, BBQ Tickets & 50/50 Helpers! Gift Cards, Gift Baskets & More!



More Pics on our Website



AREA 3 SCHOLARSHIP DANCE & TRIBUTE OCT. 7, 2023

The event started with their Color Guard who paid tribute to Irene Salcido, one of their most dedicated members who passed away on June 13, 2023.

Irene was one of their most dedicated members and loved our veterans.

They honored her by designating their scholarship in her name.

The event net result was \$2,922.51. Great job!



**2024
IRENE
SALCIDO
SCHOLARSHIP**



**MORE
GREAT
&
FUN
PICS
ON
OUR
WEBSITE
avuinc.org**



AREA 1 VETERAN EVENTS

Area 1 participated in the Santa Maria Elks Veterans Mini Stand Down event held at their lodge 1538. Local Veteran Organizations are invited to share their resources with veterans and their families.



SM Elks Mini Stand Downs Thursday, August 17, 2023 & October 12, 2023



Almost 200 pairs of shoes bought by the Cloverlane Foundation were given out by Area 1 at the Santa Barbara County Veterans Stand Down.

The event was held on Saturday, October 28 at the Santa Maria Fairgrounds.

Area 1 was on of the 54 floats that participated in the 3rd Annual Santa Ynez Valley Salute to the Vets on Saturday, November 4th.

The parade and event were sponsored by the Santa Barbara County Veterans Foundation.



The event was also supported by the Cloverlane Foundation & Santa Ynez Valley Community Outreach

“The Veterans in Our Families”



Purple Heart Recipient, Nelson R. Imel

U.S. Army, WWII, served in the South Pacific (Solomon Islands) Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and other awards and decorations. Served with the 1st Cavalry of the 7th. Shared by his son, Ronnie Imel, Mountain Center, California and Founder of *Veterans Paying It Forward*, a veterans advocacy group helping veterans. Ronnie is also a AVU Lifetime Member.



Karen Jones, AVU Web Administrator has added a new page on our website which features photos of our members families who served in the military. For more information on how to submit your photos please visit our website <https://avuinc.org> and select the “More” tab.

NOTE: This is not limited to your parents and/or grandparents, this can be any family member.

Glen Lester de St. Jean, USS Navy Reserve Joined at age 17 and served aboard the US Bairoko, a Commencement Bay Class Escort Carrier in WWII. Submitted by his sons, Glen & Ken Lester de St. Jean, both are AVU Lifetime Members.

AVU GIVING



AVU Secretary, Suzanne “Sam” de St. Jean presented a \$500 check to the American Legion Post 534 in Orcutt. It was for their help with Area 1 Veterans Fundraiser BBQ in September 2023.



Navy Widow, Marguerite Van Coops Received 2 pairs of new shoes from AVU to celebrate her 103rd Birthday. The shoes are from Pierce Footwear gifted by the Cloverlane Foundation. She received a pair early this year from AVU and loves them. **Happy Birthday!**

MEMBERSHIP:

OVER 700 STRONG!!!

369 VETERANS*

335 NON VETERANS

704 TOTAL MEMBERS

Join or Renew
your membership

***336 VETERAN LIFE MEMBERS are included in our TOTAL**

***This means that 47% of us are
Veterans Life Members!**

Count as of 11/27/23

Attention Vets & Members:

**Any changes to email, address or contact numbers
please call Colleen Graven
Home: 805 338-5582**

***We encourage you to send us your stories, newsy articles
& photos.
(Subject to space and approval)***



Newsletter contact:

Suzanne “Sam” & Glen de St. Jean

805 925-2195 Cell 805 868-4855

samdestjean@verizon.net

US DEPT. VETERANS AFFAIRS & CALVET



Access and manage your VA benefits and health care

Health Care - Disability – Education -Records

If you want more information please visit their website: <http://www.va.gov>



Register with CalVet to get veteran benefit and service recommendations just for you!

Visit their website.: www.calvet.ca.gov

CalVet strive to *serve* and *honor* all California veterans by connecting them and their families with their earned benefits through education, advocacy, and direct services.

**County Veterans Service Offices (VSO)
throughout the state help
veterans and their families file VA claims.
CalVet provides claims review and representation
for appeals services at their District Offices.**

REMINDER:

American Veterans United is here to serve you as Veteran Advocates. Although AVU does not currently staff an accredited Veterans Services Officer or Attorney, we have officers who are very competent and successful in consulting with Veterans and their family members to obtain the benefits they have earned, deserve and are 100% entitled to.

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS & VETERAN FAMILIES

EVENTS 2024

**April 20, 2024
Area 3 Scholarships Awards
Ceremony & Dance**



Area 3 Car Show (Date TBA)

**July 20, 2024
Area 2 Annual BBQ
Oak Park, 901Quimisa Dr. Simi Valley
12—3 PM**



**September 28, 2024
Area 1 Fundraising Event
American Legion, Post 534
145 W. Clark Ave. Orcutt, CA**



**October 26, 2024
Santa Barbara County
Veterans Stand Down
Santa Maria Fairpark
(Area 1 plans to participate)**

**November 11, 2024
Annual Veterans Day Event & Parade
Filmore-Piru Veterans Memorial Bldg.
(Area 2 plans to participate)**



***Look for more information about these
fun events at our meetings & website.***

Dates, Times & Locations are subject to change!