

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

**Spring 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.***

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| <p><b>Henry Alfaro - President</b><br/> <b>Frank Renteria - Vice President Area 2</b><br/> <b>Clettus McDonell -Vice President Area 1</b><br/> <b>Suzanne “Sam” de St. Jean - Secretary</b><br/> <b>Linda Alfaro - Assistant Secretary</b><br/> <b>Darci Sanchez - Assistant Secretary</b><br/> <b>Silvia Bacolot - Treasurer</b><br/>         Fred Cobb– Director Area 1<br/>         Glen de St Jean - Director Area 1<br/>         Roy Hale - Director Area 1<br/>         Tommy Lara – Director Area 1 &amp; Sergeant at Arms<br/>         Martin Lopez - Coordinator Area 1<br/>         Blas Sanchez - Director Area 1</p> | <p>Bernardo Sanchez - Director Area 2<br/>         Colleen Graven– Director Area 2<br/>         Jim Hughes - Director Area 2<br/>         Danny Golson- Sergeant at Arms Area 2<br/>         Tony Bacolot -Director Area 3<br/>         Art Cordova – Director Area 3<br/>         Raul Guzman -Director Area 3<br/>         Tom Munoz - Director Area 3<br/>         Rita Garcia - Sergeant at Arms Area 3<br/> <br/> <b>(Updated 3/5/23)</b></p> |
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***MEETINGS:***

**Area 1 on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 for dates, times and locations).**

***Meetings dates are subject to change.***  
***Please check monthly calendars.***

**Please visit our website**  
***<https://avuinc.org>* or our**  
**Facebook page to see our**  
**events, photos and more!**



**Like us on**  
**Facebook**

## ***AREA 3 DANCE OCTOBER 8, 2022 & AWARD***



***Area 3  
Scholarship Fundraiser  
Dance was held on  
October 8, 2022***

at the  
American Legion in Orange.  
It was an amazing turnout,  
standing room, sold out event!  
Area 3 plans to give \$3,000 in  
Scholarships to  
participating schools  
in their area.



***AVU was inducted into the  
American Legion Post 132  
family which consist of the  
Legionnaires, Women's  
Auxiliary, Riders, Son's,  
United Mexican  
American Veterans and now  
American Veterans United.***

***They are making a t-shirt with  
a family tree which  
Area 3 will be a part of.***



**Come to their next  
Fundraiser Dance  
Saturday May 13th**

Laborer's Local Union Local 652  
1532 E. Chestnut Ave. Santa Ana  
1 pm—7 pm  
DJ Tony B 1—3 pm  
Frances & New Beginnings 3—7 pm  
**Appetizers, Raffle, Fun!**  
***Only \$20***  
Look at AVU Website for more  
Information under Area 3.

## ***SANTA MARIA ELK'S MINI STAND DOWN JANUARY 4, 2023***

**Area 1** participated in the Santa Maria's Elk's first Veterans Stand Down for 2023 on Wednesday, January 4th. Athletic shoes were given to veterans and their families who were in attendance. The shoes were donated by the Cloverlane Foundation in Buellton. Volunteers from the Elks Veterans Committee were also there to help with shoes and check in.



**AVU Area 1 VP Clettus McDonell (right) and Tommy Lara, BOD & Sergeant of Arms**



Those who registered had a chance to win a \$25 Walmart Gift Card



**\$25 Walmart Winner!**



***Happy Feet!***  
Found the right size & color



**Join us Thursday, April 6th  
11 am—1:30 pm for the next Mini  
Stand Down & Appreciation BBQ  
at the Santa Maria Elks**



**Boy Scout Troop # 87 helped with beverages & greeted Vets**

**AREA 1 GENERAL MEETING JANUARY 21, 2023**



*Area 2 Members* are always welcome at their monthly General Meetings. Some of their BOD and members travel from Ventura, Oxnard and other areas to meet at the **Tierra Rejada Golf Club in Moorpark** out on their restaurant patio on the 3rd Saturday at 11 am each month

*VA News, updates on claims and other veterans related information is shared with our members at ALL of our General Meetings.*



**PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT AVU WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP, ATTENDING OUR GENERAL MEETINGS & VOLUNTEER TO HELP WHEN NEEDED.  
THANK YOU!**

## AREA 1 GENERAL MEETING JANUARY. 28, 2023



*Twenty Two Central Coast Members including our BOD were in attendance to kick off our first General Meeting in 2023. We met at the American Legion Post 534 in Orcutt. Shoes donated by the Cloverlane Foundation were available to members and their families.*

Our four special guests from the *Cloverlane Foundation* and new Lifetime Members (*left to right*), Gerald Chase, Founder, Jackie Peterson, Ambassador for Warrior Veterans Adaptative Sports, Ronnie Imel, Ambassador for Veterans Affairs. (*Far right*) Pam Gnekow, CEO of the *Santa Ynez Community Outreach (Buellton Senior Center)*. Their organizations helps veterans and families.



***Thank you all for your support!***

A drawing to win \$50 was held at our January meeting for all members who had to be present. The two names drawn were Gabriel Resendez and Edwin Strube. Both were MIA (Missing in Action). Pam Gnekow whose name was drawn at our February Meeting was also MIA for a chance to win \$50.

***SHOES! SHOES!***



Members present at our February Meeting were entered into a drawing to win **\$25.**

Larry Caro was the lucky one. Come to our next General Meetings and you can win too!



## MARCH EVENTS FOR AVU & VETS



### March for Meals Walk/Parade Friday, March 17 in Santa Ynez.

Gerald Chase,  
AVU Lifetime Member &  
Founder of the  
Cloverlane Foundation  
in Buellton offered  
a free dinner and a drink  
at the Maverick Saloon in Santa Ynez  
for AVU Members who participates  
in their event. Although the event is  
open to all members, many members  
from Area 1 plan to participate.



*The walk is 14 miles, but AVU members can participate in the parade on a float or walk from the Santa Ynez Presbyterian Church to the Maverick Saloon  
We are grateful to the Cloverlane Foundation and the Santa Ynez Valley Community Outreach for their continued support.*

### The Wall That Heals

is the largest replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, and a mobile education center.

**AVU Area 1 offered to help with parking for riders on Thursday, March 16th in San Miguel.**

We encourage *ALL AVU members* and their families to honor and show their support for our fallen comrades.

For more information visit their website:  
<https://vetmuseum.org/the-wall-that-heals>



*March 16—March 19 at the Madonna Inn Meadow in San Luis Obispo.*



**This event is sponsored by the Cloverlane Foundation and the SYV Community Outreach.**

*AVU please attend this special event at Ave. of the Flags in Buellton honoring ALL Veterans.  
FREE BBQ provided by the Elks Lodge.*

**Area 1 will have an informational booth and hand out pens with our Logo and Website as well as our Trifolds highlighting what our organization does.**

**MEMBERSHIP:**

**ALMOST 700 STRONG!!!**

**464 VETERANS\***

**231 NON VETERANS**

**695 TOTAL MEMBERS**

Join or Renew  
your membership

**\*337 VETERAN LIFE MEMBERS are included in TOTAL**

**\*This means that 48% of our Veteran members are  
Life Members!**

Count as of 3/8/23

**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 bios, stories, newsy articles.  
(Subject to space and approval)*



***Newsletter contact:***

Suzanne “Sam” & Glen de St. Jean  
805 925-2195 Cell 805 868-4855

[samdestjean@verizon.net](mailto: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](http://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 2023**

**May 13, 2023**  
**Area 3 Fundraiser Dance**  
**Laborer's Union Local 652**  
**1532 E. Chestnut Ave. Santa Ana**  
**1—7 PM**



**July 15, 2023**  
**Area 2 Annual BBQ**  
**Oak Park, 901Quimisa Dr. Simi Valley**  
**12—3 PM**

**September 30, 2023**  
**Area 1 Annual BBQ**  
**American Legion, Post 534**  
**145 W. Clark Ave. Orcutt, CA**  
**12—3 PM**



**October 7, 2023**  
**Moopark Country Days**  
**Historic High Street, Moorpark**  
*(Area 2 plans to participate)*

**October 28, 2023**  
**Santa Barbara County**  
**Veterans Stand Down -Santa Maria Fairpark**  
*(Area 1 plans to participate)*



**Golf Tournament & Christmas Party**  
**Dates & Locations to be announced**

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

**Dates, Times & Locations are subject to change!**