

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

Winter 2022
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.

<p>Henry Alfaro - President Frank Renteria - Vice President Area 2 Clettus McDonell -Vice President Area 1 Walter “Woody” Woodworth – Vice President Area 3 Suzanne “Sam” de St. Jean - Secretary Linda Alfaro - Assistant Secretary Darci Sanchez - Assistant Secretary Silvia Bacolot - Treasurer Fred Cobb– Director Area 1 Glen de St Jean - Director Area 1 Roy Hale - Director Area 1 Tommy Lara – Director Area 1 & Sergeant at Arms Loren Manes - Director Area 1 Martin Lopez - Coordinator Area 1 Blas Sanchez - Director Area 1</p>	<p>Bernardo Sanchez - Director Area 2 Colleen Graven– Director Area 2 Jim Hughes - Director Area 2 Danny Golson- Sergeant at Arms Area 2 Tony Bacolot -Director Area 3 Art Cordova – Director Area 3 Raul Guzman -Director Area 3 Tom Munoz - Director Area 3 Rita Garcia - Sergeant at Arms Area 3</p> <p>(Updated 12/15//2022)</p>
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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 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**



WELL DONE:

Marlene Nickerson, widow of Conrad, Area 1 Lifetime Member was presented with a Thank You Plaque at their General Meeting on Saturday, August 27, 2022.

Marlene donated Conrad's Trike after his passing earlier this year. It later was sold to another member in Area 2. Marlene has also won several of our 50/50 raffles which she kindly donated back to Area 1.

Thank you Marlene!



Welcome!

Gerald Chase, a Korean Veteran is our new Area 1 Lifetime Member.

He is the Chairman of Cloverlane Foundation whose mission is to help veterans and their families. Read more on *page 7* about his donation of shoes.

We also welcomed & swore in
our two new
Board Members in Area 2:
Darci Sanchez, Assistant Secretary &
Bernardo Sanchez, Board of Director.



Photo courtesy of the Sanchez's.



Area 2 BBQ

111 BBQ lunches of tri-tip, salad, beans and bread were served at Area 2's 6th Annual BBQ Fundraiser on Saturday, September 17th at Oak Park in Simi Valley.
Great Job Area 2!



New Canopy with AVU Logo



Music provided by AVU's DJ Tony Bacolot from Area 3.



Families Together



Lovely Raffle Ticket Ladies

Congrats to our winner of the BBQ!



WELCOME NEW



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YUMMY SNOWCONES!

Santa Maria Elk's Mini Stand Down Sept. 28, 2022



Area 1 participated in the Santa Maria's Elk's second Veterans Stand Down on Wednesday, September 28th. Frank Renteria, Vice President Area 2 was invited to be their Guest Speaker. Frank spoke about claims, benefits and suicide prevention for veterans. \$500 was donated to Area 1 for their help.



Left to right...1st row
 Vice President, Clettus McDonell,
 Directors: Fred Cobb, Glen de St. Jean

Left to right...2nd row
 Member, Jim Trask
 Director, Blas Sanchez
 Secretary & Membership Coordinator,
 Suzanne "Sam" de St. Jean
 Vice-President Area 2, Frank Renteria



During the Mini Stand Down, 85 heavy duty jackets with hoods were handed out to vets in need. Since there were varied sizes, Elk volunteers including AVU Secretary Sam de Jean and AVU Area 2 member Anabel Gutierrez (*picture far right*) helped them pick the right one.

AREA 1 BBQ

Area 1 Vets BBQ Fundraiser was held on Saturday, October 22nd at the American Legion Post 534 in Orcutt. 280 tri-tip sandwiches along with chips and a drink were sold. Two free raffle tickets to win door prizes were given for every tri-tip meal purchased. Local businesses donated gift cards or gift baskets.

Special thanks to the Legion and their volunteers who helped with set up and break down. BIG thanks to our AVU BOD and members for their help.



BBQ Crew: left to right, Paul Cuce, Legion Member; Loren Manes, AVU BOD; Benny Valdiviezo, Volunteer

Nora Mainville \$50 Gift Card Hitching Post



Legion Cmdr. Steve Mainville \$280 Tool



Julie Hall \$50 Gift Card Bello Forno



Terri Coleman \$250 1 carat Princess Cut Ring



Jesse \$40 Car Wash Essentials

**MORE AREA 1 & 2
BBQ PICS ON OUR
WEBSITE**



Santa Maria Elk's Mini Stand Down Nov 30, 2022



Pam Gnekow & Gerald Chase, from Cloverlane Foundation & Area 1 Lifetime Members with Clettus McDonell, VP Area 1

AVU Area 1 again participated in the third Santa Maria Elk's Mini Stand. The Cloverlane Foundation in Buellton gave new athletic shoes to veterans and their families who were in attendance. Gerald Chase, had over 2,000 pairs of shoes donated by Pierce Footwear, located in Bend, Oregon. These shoes were created by its founder, George Pierce who turns waste into foam for shoes. American Veterans United Board Members, Clettus McDonell and Loren Manes made the round-trip trek from California to Oregon to pick up the shoes and then gave them to the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County for storage. These shoes will be made available to AVU Members, veterans and their families.

Santa Maria Elk's Veterans Committee Volunteers



George Pierce, CEO Founder is an entrepreneur and dedicated athlete. He has travelled nationally and globally competing in many duathlon and triathlon events over the past decades. In 2010, George suffered a life-threatening accident when he was struck by a car while cycling.

He sustained many serious injuries, including fracturing his neck and back in multiple places. On his road to recovery, George discovered that lacing shoes was incredibly difficult with his limited mobility. He was inspired to create a solution by designing a laceless performance shoe, and [Pierce Footwear](#) was born!

The largest outreach and ambassador group for the first shoes were the Special Olympics international athletes first fitting TEAM USA athletes in the Los Angeles games 2015, we custom fit 2,000 athletes in 2017 winter games, Gratz, Austria, and then 2019 7,000 athletes in the summer games held in Abu Dhabi and all 192 countries in the world were represented.

[Pierce Footwear](#) celebrates its first Veterans partnership with Cloverlane Foundation and Veterans Mobility Products to distribute best fitting sneakers to temporarily disabled Veterans and their families. These sneakers help Veterans stay physically active, more mobile and to keep exercising to receive the mental health benefits of movement.

AVU thanks George for his kind donation to all veterans.

Visit www.piercefootwear.com for more information. Photo and article courtesy of George Pierce.

MEMBERSHIP:

ALMOST 800 STRONG!!!

570 VETERANS*

210 NON VETERANS

780 TOTAL MEMBERS



***416 VETERAN LIFE MEMBERS
are included in TOTAL**

***This means that 53% of our Veteran members are
Life Members!**

Count as of 12/20/22

**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

US DEPT. VETERANS AFFAIRS



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! www.cdva.ca.gov**

Veteran Services / Benefits

California is home to 1.8 million veterans, representing eight percent of the total U.S. veteran population. California anticipates receiving an additional 30,000 discharged members of the armed services each year for the next several years – more than any other state. Historically, the largest demand for benefits and services for veterans occurs immediately after discharge and again as the veteran population ages and requires greater access to medical facilities and long-term care services.

With the substantial number of veterans under the age of 30 leaving the military after deployments to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, coupled with a considerably large population of Vietnam veterans who are now approaching a period in their lives where they will need greater access to medical and long-term care, California is preparing for a sustained spike in earned services and benefits.

About VBA

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) provides a variety of benefits and services to Service members, Veterans, and their families. VBA has been undergoing a major transformation that is people-centric, results-oriented, and a forward-looking integration of solutions that will ensure total lifelong engagement with Service members, Veterans, and their families. To learn more please go to <http://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/media-publications.asp>

EVENTS 2023:

**September 16, 2023
Area 2 Annual BBQ
Oak Park, 901Quimisa Dr. Simi Valley
12—3 PM**



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



**Golf Tournament
Date & Location to be announced**



**October 14, 2023 Santa Barbara County
Veterans Stand Down -Santa Maria Fairpark
(Area 1 plans to participate)**

**August/October Area 1 Annual BBQ
American Legion, Post 534
145 W. Clark Ave. Orcutt, CA
12—3 PM**



Area 3—Orange County (Dance and/or Car Show)

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

Dates, Times & Locations are subject to change!