

Veterans Services- Aug. 2025 Ex-officio Report

Veteran Services updates:

The month of July the office staff worked hard to complete the Cal-Vet audit and make sure we received credit for every claim that was submitted through our office. The next California Association of County Veteran Service Officers (CACVSO) training conference will be held in Oct. 2025 from the 19th to the 24th. One of the VSR staff and I will be attending. The only other office update I have is that El Dorado County Veteran Services has gained a new Program Manager, Amy Higdon.

July Audit:

Our portion of the Cal-Vet Audit is completed. We are waiting for the official word from Cal-Vet to let us know how we did. According to our internal numbers we were able to bring \$2,981,455.46 into our community in the last 6 months. This amount represents a combination of retroactive money along with recurring monthly payments to client. This amount is a much higher amount than we have reported in past Audits. Again, I just want to give credit where it is due. The reason why we are able to report such a high dollar amount for this audit is because SR Office Assistant Bonnie Steward has been able to devote a large portion of her day to searching for and posting awards that are the direct result of claims submitted to Veteran Affairs (VA) by the VSR staff.

Legislative Updates:

- In my June 2025 Ex-Officio report I spoke about SB 694. I would just like to reiterate what I said last month and inform everyone that SB-694 has passed

the senate and will be heard at 9 am by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on August 20, 2025. If you or others you know are able to attend and show your support for SB-694 it would be very appreciated by the veterans of California. Senate Bill 694 is designed to

- Protect veterans from financial exploitation
- Keep benefit dollars in local communities
- Reinforce long-standing federal protections
- Send a strong message that California defends its veterans

July 2025 VSO Summary:

157 Walk In clients

55 Scheduled Appointments

200 Phone calls

South Lake Tahoe Updates:

Tisha has been doing a great job at handling the clients in South Lake Tahoe. She continues to staff the office on the 2nd & 3rd Tue each month weather permitting.