

Veterans and Family Support November Promotion

Veterans Service Officers

How many times have you been around family, friends, comrades and heard them discuss the process of submitting claims with the VA to get the benefits they earned? How often are they confused about what they are entitled to, uncertain about where their claim stands and dejected when a claim is denied and they don't understand why? That's not to say it's always like this but these tend to be the cases we hear talked about! It seems like there is never enough assistance available!

That is where Veterans Service Officers (VSOs) come in. So, what is a VSO and what do they do? A VSO is someone who is trained and accredited to help veterans, their dependents and their survivors with VA benefits and other resources.

Calvet, or the California Department of Veterans Affairs, is the state agency that provides services and benefits to veterans and their families in California. They are staffed with County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs) who can help with such things as home loans, education, residency in veteran homes, healthcare, employment, housing and VA Claims.

In addition to the state provided services, Veterans organizations such as the VFW, American Legion and Disabled American Veterans also have accredited Veterans Services Officers that can provide assistance. These officers provide similar services to the County Veterans Service Officers and can often provide a fresh perspective on the matters in hand.

The VFW Department of California Department Service Officer is located in Elk Grove and has 2 assistants, one in Rancho Cordova and one in San Diego. All three VSOs work with Veterans and their families across the state. Their contact details can be found at [Veteran Benefits & Assistance - VFW Department of California](#) . The VFW VSOs are available to everyone, not just VFW members!

Each year, Auxiliary members are asked to consider donating to the Service Officer Fund (see the Quick Reference Guide for Donations which available under the member login at <https://vfwauxca.org>). This monies collected each year are presented to the VFW to help run their Service Department. This funding helps our Veterans get the answers they need and the benefits they have earned. Last year's President Diana and this year's President Sharonda feel so strongly about this cause that they both chose this fund as their "Special Project".

So, if your Auxiliary hasn't already donated to the Service Officer Fund this year or to President Sharonda's Special Project, please consider doing so. All donations to the VSO are reportable under Veterans and Family Services.