



American Legion
Donald C Thompson
Post and Auxiliary Unit 135

United for Veterans Newsletter

September-October 2021

Volume 33

Post Commander Ken Johnson

Hello Comrades!

Let's all put on our thinking caps and come up with ways to help our post.



We have the District 8 picnic coming up on September 18th at Goldwater Lake in Prescott. Tickets are \$6 per adult, children 10 and under are free. Picnic starts at 11:30am and ends at 4pm. You can purchase tickets at the door.

Our car show is September 25th, and we need volunteers to help. Set-up begins at 7 am as cars start arriving at 7:30 am. The areas where volunteers are needed are directing the show cars to the appropriate area, raffle sales, 50/50 raffle, drink concession, continental breakfast concession and clean-up. Contact Jan Allbright to confirm your participation.

We also have a meat raffle going on right now. Contact Keith Tucker or Jeri Strande to get tickets to sell to your friends, family and neighbors, or even acquaintances at the various establishments you visit. Tickets are \$10 each and come in a book of 5. Try to encourage everyone to purchase a full book. The prize is 1/8th of a side of beef (approximately 75 pounds) which includes hamburger, steaks, and roasts.

I hope to see you at our meetings. Any questions give me a call 805-714-9369 or send me an email at kennyj52@aol.com.

Ken

Auxiliary President Jonnie Maddox

Greetings!

The next two months are full of opportunities to serve our veterans, their families, and the community.



One event that we have coming up is a Craft Show! We will be participating at the Woman of the Moose Craft Show on October 2nd in Clarkdale. If you are a crafter and would like to donate your handiwork to help raise money for the Unit, we would appreciate your contribution. We also have word that we can sell baked goods so all you bakers out there, we are looking for some scrumptious goodies. Contact me for information.

Another event that is the planning stages is a Community Dinner / Membership Drive. The purpose of this event, besides getting new members, is to let the community know what we are currently doing, and we can do for the community, especially when we get a building. ***There is much to be done*** to prepare for this event and our team is looking for help preparing food and other needs to pull it all together. If you can help in ***any way***, please contact Barbara Spude to find out what they need. Her email is thespudes@msn.com

For God and Country,
Jonnie

Membership

Membership doesn't just happen – you “gotta” work it!

This year, I have the “dubious” charge of energizing not only the Post membership, but the Auxiliary as well! The effort is the same – Legionnaires or Auxiliary members – we need the numbers, but we must go further than that – **we need THEM!**

- A. We need their ideas, suggestions, input;
- B. We need them to feel important within the organizations as well as our existing members;
- C. We need their efforts to accomplish our goals.

Sadly, at the end of the 2021 membership, neither the post or auxiliary made their established departmental goals – both fell about 15% shy – at that rate, we'll never accomplish A, B, and C above.

I've been a member of both organizations for well over 10 year each – I know it's hard to recruit even though you may be knowledgeable about our programs – sometimes you just have to “brag” a little bit.

Talk about programs...

If you need working materials like flyers to familiarize yourself about programs or to pass out – just ask, I have boxes of them! If you want to learn more about a program, again just ask – there are others in our post and unit that are familiar with various veteran, Americanism, youth and/or community programs, these knowledgeable members are able and willing to sit with you.

Plan to help...

In an attempt to educate the Cornville Community, the Legion Family will host a Membership/Revitalization dinner. The event, a “brain-child” and effort of the auxiliary is intended to make our family visible to local residents – tentatively, the dinner is set for **November 13, 2021.**

This is a wonderful opportunity for our existing members to meet, talk to potential members in a casual atmosphere without any pressure. It's a time to talk about all the things we've previously done and continue to do in the Cornville community! I hope that you will be one of the volunteers that will step up and help us to make this a huge success!

The post membership goal this year is 86 currently we have renewed 12 members and one new member has been recruited. Post dues are \$40.

The Auxiliary membership goal this year is currently undetermined, and 9 members have renewed and no new members have been recruited. Auxiliary Dues are \$30 for Seniors (ages 18 and over) and \$6 for Juniors (ages 0-17)

You may mail your renewal to the American Legion Post and/or Auxiliary to P O Box 172, Cornville, AZ 86325. ***Please make separate checks to American Legion Post 135 OR American Legion Auxiliary Unit 135.***

Jeri Strande
Post Adjutant
Auxiliary Vice-President/Membership Chairman



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Legislative Report

Eleanor Mooney, Auxiliary Legislative Chairman



National Archives and Records Administration Backlog hurts Veterans

Many veterans have become frustrated in their attempts to get needed information and

records from the National Archives and Records Administration. These records provide information for funerals, job seeking, health coverage and more. It turns out there is a backlog of over 500,000 records due in part to the COVID19 shutdown when most of the workers had to stay home and were not able to get access to the records to work with them. During that time 72 workers who were working on site got the COVID virus.

Now lawmakers are urging the National Archives to digitize the records to speed up the updated information searching process. David Ferriero, the archivist for the United States said he hired an extra 100 employees to help deal with the backlog but estimated it would still take until the end of 2022 to get caught up.

With the resurgence of COVID especially in Missouri where the records center is located, there is concern that another shutdown would cause further delays in getting record requests taken care of. Six members of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform wrote a letter urging Mr. Ferriero to apply for funding through the Technology Modernization Fund to help with the digitation efforts. "It is critical that [the National Archives] use any and all available tools to ensure we can uphold our commitments to our nation's veterans," the lawmakers wrote.

Ferriero acknowledged in a letter to Congress this month that digitizing records was an important step to eliminate the backlog. He said the agency would begin digitizing records in August.

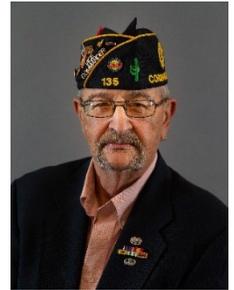
"Mass digitization will significantly enhance the [National Personnel Records Center]'s ability to process requests remotely in the unfortunate event of a pandemic resurgence," he wrote. In addition, Ferriero acknowledged that even though steps are being taken to start the digitizing of records, the entire IT infrastructure needed to be improved too.

Veteran's Service Officer

Jan Allbright

Agent Orange Presumptive Expansion

After many years of wrangling with the VA, and from mounting pressure from Veterans Services Organizations (like our American Legion), the Veterans Administration has added three (3) more presumptive diseases to the Agent Orange list. These new diagnoses are bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinson's Disease-like symptoms. Like all presumptive, all that need be proven is that you have the disease, and you were "boots on the ground" in Vietnam. If you are unlucky enough to have any of these diseases, I strongly advise you to contact your Post Service Officer and get the claims paperwork started!



Armed Forces Vacation Club

A new benefit for veterans! Long available to Active Duty and Retired Military, the AFVC is now available to use by Veterans. You will need to have your Veteran status verified (just like with use of the PX). Savings are quite substantial! You can find out more and get the process started at <https://www.afvclub.com/new-member-welcome>

Current Fundraiser:

Help is needed to sell the raffle tickets. They come as a packet of 5 tickets and sell for \$10/each. We encourage everyone to sell them as a full book for \$50. It's a great deal for 75 pounds of grass-fed beef. The package includes hamburger, steaks, and roast. Once all the tickets are sold, the winning ticket will be drawn, and the winner notified.

Contact Keith Tucker or Jeri Strande for books of tickets to sell to you friends, family, neighbors, and acquaintances at the various places you visit.



Calling all Crafters!!

We are looking for donations of craft items and baked goods to sell at an upcoming craft show, October 2nd. If you have crafts that you would like to contribute OR baked goods you can donate, please contact Jonnie Maddox at (760) 413-5912 or via email at: mimi2twins@gmail.com We need your contributions by September 25th.

American Legion
Donald C Thompson
Post 135

Beef Raffle



Grass Fed Beef
An Eighth of a Side of Beef
(Approximately 75 pounds, Processed & Wrapped)

Tickets: \$10 each
Only 150 tickets will be sold. When all are sold, the winning ticket will be drawn, and winner notified

Proceeds go toward the building of a Post home at
11350 Cornville Road, Cornville

Volunteers Needed!

Our annual Car Show is coming up on September 25th at Galpin Ford and RV in Cottonwood. We need folks to help set up canopies, run the breakfast and drink concessions, help at the raffle table and 50/50 raffle. In addition, we will need help directing the show cars to the appropriate area and assist where needed. **Set-up starts between 6:45 and 7:00am** and then after the car show, we will need help taking everything back down and storing it at the Post/Aux property. **Please contact Jan Allbright, Event Coordinator at 928-300-2386.**

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Chaplain's Corner

Just when it appears things are beginning to reopen and the Country is getting back to some semblance of "Norm" again, along comes "Improvements" by the government affecting people's everyday lives. It has been a long rough road and just when we begin to catch our breath, there comes another 'cutdown', or is that 'shutdown'. From Virus', to Immigration, to the Economy and now, to what many are describing as a "Botched Military withdrawal, that appears to be, a "Cut and Run. In other words, Retreat". This will be the second time in American History.

Many may have felt a "Kick in the Gut" this past week, which some describe as "Tuck Tail and Run" taking place in Afghanistan. I have had the opportunity to speak to many Veterans, from WWII, Vietnam, OEF and OIF and now, Afghanistan. Many have commented on their "reliving" the nightmares from what most have described as having gone through Unpopular Combat Actions, for an Ungrateful People. Most are asking that unanswerable question, WHY, did I do what I did? or, WHY, did I even Serve? WHAT was the purpose, to have it all be for Nothing? Like many others, I too knew many who never came home, or 'if' they did, they were never the same. I've even been told by some they feel a sense of Betrayal, by the 'Leaders" of this country, knowing, it did not have to end this way.

These feelings of Hopelessness and in some cases, Anger, are completely understandable and search as I may, I admit, I don't have a satisfactory answer or words of Comfort and Encouragement that will satisfy all. I too search for answers.

I guess my best response to everything going on is, this world is Corrupt and Lost, so we need to look beyond this World we live in, a World we are simply "passing through", to a higher, much more intelligent power.

For ME personally, my "Higher Power", is Jesus Christ. I find Peace, alone, in Him. I am encouraged daily, by HIS Grace and Mercy and I stand, in MY Faith, in HIS Promises of "Everlasting Life", whatever that entails.

My Hope and Prayer for all of you, is that each of you find Peace, find Comfort and Joy, in something we can have Faith in, whatever you believe it is that will stand with you.

If you are able, reach out to Fellow Veterans, encourage them, offer support if they are having a difficult time. If necessary, point them to the many opportunities available through the VA. Above all, have NO regrets, for what you Did, it was a Good Thing.

I Pray that each of you are Blessed beyond measure.

Chaplain John

MON-FRI: 8-5:30
SAT: 8-4

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JOE SEGINSKI
President

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Car Show

Plans are in the making for our annual Car Show on September 25, 2021, at Galpin Auto & RV in Cottonwood. The new Truck Class was very popular last year so be sure to spread the word.

If you would like flyers to distribute to friends and family, contact Jeri Strande at **602-935-1936**. Leave a message and she will return your call. Or you can print out this page, cut off the top portion of this page and you will have one quick and easy.



Oktoberfest
CAR SHOW
September 25, 2021 – 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Galpin Auto & RV
925 State Hwy 89A, Cottonwood, AZ 86326
For Registration and payment: <https://alazp135.org/car-show-2021>

- 70 Spaces Available • \$20 Preregistration • \$ 25 Registration at the event •
 - Commander's Choice, People's Choice & Sponsors Awards •
 - Free Lunch for Drivers • Check In @ 7:30am • Judging @ NOON •
- Free Admission • Music • Food Available •
 - Drawings • Prizes •
- Raffle - Tickets @ \$1 OR 6 for \$5 •
- **NEW TRUCK CLASS** •

Sponsored By
American Legion Post 135
Cornville, AZ
Registration Forms Online @ arizonacarshows.com
Or Call 928-649-3374

School Supplies

Each year at Back to School, the Auxiliary Unit sponsors a school supply 'drive' for Oak Creek School in Cornville. In the past, we have supplied backpacks and other supplies that the school distributed to students that needed them.

This year was different in that we did the school supply 'drive', **but** we were able to contribute more supplies than we have ever supplied before. As you see in the picture below, we had to bring the supplies in a wagon! Thanks to all who contributed!



Jamie Garcia, Principal's Secretary shows off the supplies delivered to the Oak Creek School in Cornville you can see that the wagon is full - donations for the event were almost \$500.

Calendar of Events

September

- 1 Building Committee 4:30pm
- 8 Post Meeting 6:30pm
- 8 Cornville Fire Station
- 15 Auxiliary Meeting 6:00pm
- 15 Cornville Fire Station
- 18 District 8 Picnic 11:30am-4pm
- 18 Goldwater Lake
- 25 Car Show(Galpin RV) 9am-2pm

October

- 6 Building Committee 4:30pm
- 6 Auxiliary Meeting 6:00pm
- 6 Cornville Fire Station
- 9 District 8 Meeting 11am-2pm
- 9 Post 93-Camp Verde
- 13 Post Meeting 6:30pm
- 13 Cornville Fire Station
- 16 Post/Aux Yard Sale 8am-Noon

Post Officers

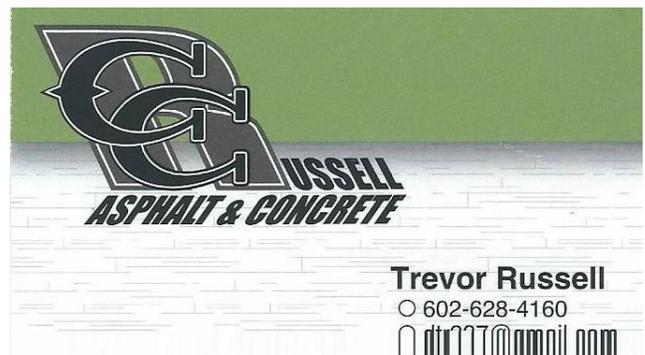
Position	Name	Phone
Commander	Ken Johnson	805-714-9369
1 st Vice Cmdr.	Jan Allbright	300-2386
2 nd Vice Cmdr.		
Finance Officer	Tom Rounds	202-9992
Adjutant	Jeri Strande	649-3374
Chaplain	John Maddox	760-964-2651
Sgt at Arms	Skip Baker	301-1451
E-Committee	John Maddox	760-964-2651
	Tom Royer	649-9673
Service Officer	Jan Allbright	300-2386
Honor Guard Cmdr.	Keith Tucker	301-2618

Auxiliary Officers

Position	Name	Phone
President	Jonnie Maddox	760-413-5912
Vice President	Jeri Strande	649-3374
Treasurer	Phyllis Kennedy	300-7411
Secretary	Position Open	
Chaplain	Jeanette Volk	639-4292
Sgt at Arms	Position Open	
E- Committee	Eleanor Mooney	606-4930
	Stephanie Marquez	626-255-0024
Historian	Barbara Spude	301-8874

NOTE: Unlisted area codes are 928

Newsletter Editor Jonnie Maddox 760-413-5912 Email: mimi2twins@gmail.com



We appreciate the support of local businesses and hope you will take the opportunity to engage their services when possible.

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