



American Legion
Donald C Thompson
Post and Auxiliary Unit 135

United for Veterans Newsletter

July-August 2022

Volume 38

Post Commander Keith Tucker

July is the start of the American Legion Year; a new slate of officers, old and new projects, and I hope, many new members.



Many thanks for your donations that have allowed us to begin work on renovation of the trailer placed on the property for the purpose of having an office where veterans and members of the community can get information and help with various needs.

One of the donations received was a gift card from Home Depot in the amount of \$200 and another was a \$50 cash donation. This allowed us to purchase a 100 amp breaker box, wiring, outlets and pay for some labor to get the trailer completely re-wired. We estimate that we need approximately \$2500 to complete this project. See the list of items needed to the right of this article. Small donations add up to big returns.

We have all the office furnishings necessary as well as a new compact refrigerator and a microwave to fit the small space. In addition, we do have linoleum for the bathroom & sink area. It is our hope to have the office renovations completed by August 1st so that regular business hours can be established to meet and greet veterans and members of the community.

One of the services our Post provides is an Honor Guard that performs military honors for the families

of veterans upon request. We are always looking for additional members for the Honor/Color Guard.
Contact me if you are interested serving with us.

Be sure to check the Calendar of Events page of this newsletter for the activities already scheduled and mark your calendars so that you can volunteer and/or attend.

A big Thank You to all members, active or not, for your membership and support. You are very much appreciated. Remember to recruit, recruit, recruit! Hope to see you at the July 13th meeting.

For God and Country,
Keith Tucker
Commander

Office Trailer Needs:

. Additional needs to complete the project are:

- 32-inch exterior door for a 32-inch RV door jam
- Combination heating and air conditioning 18,500 btu unit
- Paint
- RV roof coating to cover an 8-foot x 24-foot roof
- Floor covering for 8-foot x 16-foot area
- Plumbing materials for the bathroom fixtures
- Wall coverings (i.e., paneling and insulation)
- Windows
- RV sized hot water heater (6 gallons minimum)
- Small kitchen counter height cabinet, sink and faucet

Contact Keith Tucker or Jeri Strande if you wish to donate toward this project or leave a message at the Post number: 602-935-1936 and someone will contact you.

Auxiliary President Phyllis Kennedy

Hello American Legion
Family,

It's amazing - another
year (2022-2023) has
arrived. I am looking
forward to a busy year
filled with many
opportunities for us to work together and reach out
to our community, our family and our friends and
neighbors.



Our first Auxiliary meeting is Wednesday, July 6 at
6:00 pm at the Cornville Fire Station on Page
Springs Road. I invite you to join us as we begin
preparing for an exciting year.

Be sure to **check out the Calendar page** of this
newsletter for a list of events through the end of
the year. Please mark your calendars and plan to
come out and enjoy the fun and comradery.

I would also like to host an organizational meeting
(date TBD) to consider additional activities for the
coming year. Your ideas and thoughts are
gratefully accepted.

If you know of anyone in our community that
needs a helping hand, please let us know. That's
why we're here – "Service before self".

Many Blessings to each of you and I'm wishing you
a year filled with success and new beginnings.

For God and Country,
Phyllis Kennedy,
ALA President

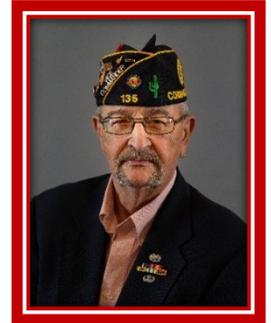
Service Officer Notes Jan Allbright

Two major things are in the
works ...

First, new life insurance program
for Veterans with service-
connected disabilities that takes
effect January 1, 2023. Veterans
Affairs Life Insurance (VALife) provides guaranteed
acceptance whole life coverage of up to \$40,000 to
Veterans with service-connected disabilities. Lesser
amounts are available in increments of \$10,000. Under
this plan, the elected coverage takes effect two years
after enrollment as long as premiums are paid during
the two-year period. All Veterans aged 80 and under,
who have a VA disability rating of 0 to 100 percent are
eligible for the VALife program and have no time limit to
apply. More information at

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/valife.asp>

Second, the VA added 3 more presumptive conditions
related to Agent Orange exposure. These presumptive
conditions are: Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism and
Parkinsonism. While there was much talk about this last
year, now the ink is dry – so if you qualify (or know
someone who does) please contact your Service Officer
soonest!



The Auxiliary is once again gathering school
supplies for the local schools. If you are interested
in participating in this project, **contact President
Phyllis Kennedy** and she can provide more
information and/or direct you to the Project
Chairman. You may donate the actual school
supplies or provide a cash donation toward the
purchase of those supplies.

Membership

Consider Paid Up for Life membership

Failed membership goals....

As I write this article, I can sadly project that neither the post or the auxiliary will make their department 100% membership goal for 2022. You're "preaching to the choir" if you tell me that recruiting is tough, and Covid-19 has played a factor in it. But we can't recruit new members if we don't talk about the Legion and the Auxiliary and all the good, we do for veterans their families and the community.

This year we've taken positive steps forward to increase our visibility by hosting the community lunch, placing the travel trailer on the property for a business/veteran counseling office and participating in the first ever Verde Valley Standdown. We still have a long way to go so let's try to think up some other ways to not only attain our membership, but also elevate our visibility in the community.

Consider PUFL membership....

Everywhere you turn, prices keep going up – one way to avoid an increase in your Legion Family dues is to purchase a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) membership – both for Legion and/or Auxiliary.

Currently, there are over 184,000 PUFLs – of which I became one in early 2021. That membership means I will **never** have to pay dues again even if the price goes up! The same is true in the auxiliary. The ALA reports 17,000 PUFLs.

Do the math.....

At of our past Fall Conference in 2021, we already know that the auxiliary dues are increasing in 2023.



So, we know that's a "done deal". At this time, I've heard no rumors on an increase for the post.

In both organizations, the cost of a PUFL membership is based on two factors:

- 1) The member's **age** at the time of application/purchase and
- 2) The **total annual dues** of the post/unit at the time of application is processed.

For instance, Auxiliary dues are currently \$30, a 60 to 69 age member would pay \$624 and would not pay dues the remainder of their lives. Significant savings for those that are 70-79 & 80-89. Sorry, I don't have any Legion estimates, but frequently the Legion will offer "an email out of cycle" discount you can take advantage of, if you're interested, call me for up-to-date rates.

It goes without saying that the cost of EVERYTHING is going up, it just makes good \$\$\$ sense to get your Legion and Auxiliary paid for now. By enrolling in either or both (for us dual members) it's one expense or worry you won't have in the future!

Call me at 928-649-3374 or email me at: jeristrande21@gmail.com.

For God and Country,

Jeri

Jeri Strande,

Post Adjutant & Auxiliary Vice-President





Chaplain's Corner

John Maddox, Post Chaplain

Here are a few "Thoughts for a better life I came across. I hope they encourage you, as they have encouraged me:

1. The quality of your thoughts and feelings impacts your actions and results. Everything you can see started as a thought. So, when you need encouragement, ask yourself, "are my thoughts enabling me or disabling me?" Are my thoughts "moving me forward or holding me back?"
2. Social media is supposed to be good for you. It's supposed to connect you to like-minded people, inspire you, motivate you, and make you laugh, feel connected, and loved like you are part of something truly special. If it doesn't, start snoozing the haters, step away from the negative groups, and look for the things that inspire you—yes you can include cute funny cat videos!

Chaplain John

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Trailer for Rent.....

Another way the Post and Auxiliary are trying to raise money for the post home is by renting an 18' enclosed box trailer which was



recently procured as a fundraiser and to help with moving yard sale donations and equipment. I know it is hard to believe our little post has equipment that requires special handling, but between tables, canopies, furniture, and BBQ's, we are pretty "rich".

Renting the trailer is open to anyone – but there are rules – after all, we want to make money, but we do not want our property damaged. The cost of the trailer per day is \$40, but extended time may be negotiated and a \$150 refundable (with no damage) deposit. Plus, there are other requirements such as the renter/driver must have a validate driver's license with vehicle insurance coverage (if there is damage) plus other restrictions.

This trailer is PERRRFECT for local rain or shine moves. In addition to the trailer, we also have available for loan are some packing quilts, ramps to ease moving large furniture or appliances. Sorry no people-movers comes with it!

If you're interested in renting the trailer other know someone with a job that needs a trailer, please call me at 928-649-3374 to sign the contract and arrange for pickup.

Jeri Strande, Adjutant, Post 135

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Memorial Day Observation

The Post and Auxiliary hosted our annual Memorial Day Program on the Post property on May 28th. In addition to the posting of the Colors, those in attendance heard from Jim Simons, a Workforce Specialist at Cliff Castle Casino, a US Army veteran, and Old Guard member.

Refreshments were served following the ceremonies.



Keynote Speaker Jim Simons



Honor Guard member Bill Larsen read a poem



Post Commander & Honor Guard member Ken Johnson played 'Taps'



Auxiliary Treasurer Phyllis Kennedy led the singing of the 'Star Spangled Banner'



Bagpiper Michael Donaldson closed the day by playing 'Amazing Grace'

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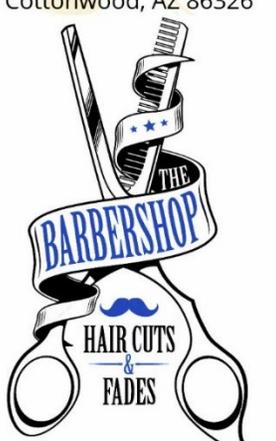
Advertising

You have seen advertisements throughout this newsletter with each edition. We hope that you have taken supported them with your business needs.

These businesses have chosen to support the Legion by placing a business card sized ad in the newsletters for one year at a cost of \$30 for that year. If you have a business that would benefit from this type of advertising, we welcome you to contact the Post Adjutant, Jeri Strande for more information.

If you are a current advertiser, it is time to renew your ad space for \$30 per year. We publish bi-monthly so each issue costs you \$5 to advertise and in return, you are supporting the American Legion and its members. Please mail your renewal to American Legion Post 135, P O Box 172, Cornville, AZ 86325.

1632 E. Cottonwood St.
Cottonwood, AZ 86326



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Department Convention for the Legion and Auxiliary

Commander Ken Johnson and Post Adjutant Jeri Strande represented Post 135 at the Department Convention June 23-26 in Oro Valley, AZ at the El Conquistador Resort.



L-R: Phyllis Kennedy, Bobbie Kimelton, Ken Johnson, Jonnie Maddox, Jeri Strande

Auxiliary President Jonnie Maddox and Treasurer Phyllis Kennedy were delegates for the Auxiliary Convention. We also were able to connect with our Auxiliary members Brad and Colleen Heck and Bobbie Kimelton.



Auxiliary Members Brad & Colleen Heck

Start planning now for the Fall Conference which will also be held at the El Conquistador Resort in Oro Valley, AZ. Fall Conference is usually held the first weekend of November.

Calendar of Events

July

- 6 Building Committee 4:30pm
- 6 ***Auxiliary Meeting*** 6:00pm
- 6 ***Cornville Fire Station***
- 13 ***Post Meeting*** 6:30pm
- 13 ***Cornville Fire Station***
- 28 Sedona Chamber Paper Shredding:
9a-10a Red Rock HS

August

- 6 Building Committee 4:30pm
- 6 ***Auxiliary Meeting*** 6:00pm
- 6 ***Cornville Fire Station***
- 13 ***Post Meeting*** 6:30pm
- 13 ***Cornville Fire Station***

Post Officers

Auxiliary Officers

Position	Name	Phone	Position	Name	Phone
Commander	Keith Tucker	301-2618	President	Phyllis Kennedy	300-7411
1 st Vice Cmdr.	Jan Allbright	300-2386	Vice President	Jeri Strande	649-3374
2 nd Vice Cmdr.			Treasurer	Jonnie Maddox	760-413-5912
Finance Officer	Dale Howard	963-0965	Secretary	<i>Position Open</i>	
Adjutant	Jeri Strande	649-3374	Chaplain	Jeanette Volk	639-4292
Chaplain	John Maddox	760-964-2651	Sgt at Arms	<i>Position Open</i>	
Sgt at Arms	James Golden	300-4617	E- Committee	Gabby Howard	963-1656
E-Committee	John Maddox	760-964-2651		Alicia Kunstmann	451-4070
	Tom Royer	649-9673	Historian	<i>Position Open</i>	
Service Officer	Jan Allbright	300-2386			
Honor Guard					
Commander	Keith Tucker	301-2618			

NOTE: Unlisted area codes are 928

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

Upcoming Events:

July: Collecting school supplies for the Cornville Elementary School

August: Deliver school supplies to Cornville Elementary School

September:

Sept 17: District 8 Picnic at Goldwater Park in Prescott starting at 11:00 am

Sept 24: Our 5th Annual Car Show at Galpin Auto & RV in Cottonwood

October: Fall Yard Sale: Date yet to be set

November: Celebrating our "Early Birds" and volunteers with a luncheon

December: Cottonwood Christmas Parade (Date TBD) 9am at the Cottonwood Fairgrounds

Our Christmas Party (Date/Time & Location TBD)

Christmas caroling (Date/Time & Locations TBD)

Mark your calendars and plan to join in the fun!



American Legion
Donald C Thompson Post 135
P O Box 172
Cornville, AZ 86325