

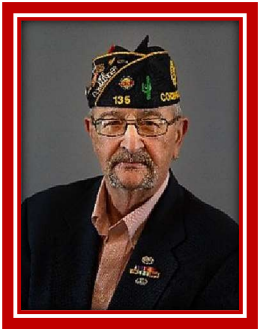


American Legion
Donald C Thompson Post and
Auxiliary Unit 135
United for Veterans
Newsletter

March-April 2025

Volume 52

**Post Commander
Jan Allbright**



These are pretty confusing times and we are being bombarded by highly conflicting messages on several topics nearly constantly.

At these times it is a good idea to pull out the good old "Critical Thinking Toolkit" and apply some of the tools. It is pretty straight forward. Ask yourself the following questions:

1. How Do You Know This? – was by word of mouth, workplace knowledge, or a news report.
2. How Would Your Perspective Be Different If You Were on the Opposing Side? – what would the opposing person’s viewpoint be.
3. Do You Agree or Disagree – and Why?
4. Why? Why? Why? – many statements can not withstand three layers of why? Push beyond a simple first, second, or even third answer, to get to the real depth.
5. Why Does It Matter? – why are people asking the question or making the statement in the first place?
6. Can You Give Me an Example? – if someone states something is an issue, can they give a real world example.
7. Why Did They Ask That Question? – what is the reason behind the reason?
8. Who Would Be Affected by This? – is this a large group? A small group? Is there a group at all?

9. Why Is This a Problem? – many things that are put forward are actually not a real problem in the first place!

And last, but certainly not least...

10. "Qui bono", which is Latin for "to whose advantage". Which side of the question will receive the benefit of any decision?

Using these questions will save you many inflamed brain cells in the future days!

For God and Country,
Jan Allbright
Commander

Still Speaking Up

If you missed the District 8 Oratorical speeches on February 22, never fear you can still attend the Area C Contest on March 15 at the Campe Verde Library located at 130 Black Ridge Loop Road, Campe Verde.

**Guests needs to arrive no later than 9:30am.
Doors close at 10:00am.**


HUEY
AUTOMOTIVE
928-567-2753
3718 E. Beaver Creek Rd. Rimrock, AZ 86335

**Auxiliary President
Phyllis Kennedy**

**Greetings American
Legion Family,**



March and April bring in springtime – new growth and new beginnings. This is a time for us to reach out to our community, family and friends; to offer help and assistance to those in need. We ask, “How can I help? How can I be of assistance?”. Do you know someone who needs a helping hand? Who needs love and compassion? Who needs a hug? Who needs a hot meal? Let us freely express our commitment to be of service to those around us who are afraid to ask for help, who are scared and hurt. Let us be a pillar of understanding and compassion and be willing to listen without judgement. Thank you for all you do to help anyone who is brought into your world. He is there for a reason.

With the arrival of Spring, we are once again hosting our yard sale and vendor spaces on the first Saturday of the month. On March 1st we will be open for business. If you have any donations, please contact Keith Tucker or Jeri Strande. We look forward to seeing you there and appreciate all the help you offer.

Also, we will be sponsoring a Beef Raffle to raise funds for our Building Fund. We will be holding four (4) separate raffles. We will begin selling tickets in March and have our first drawing when 100 tickets are sold. We will immediately then begin our second raffle until all four (4) are completed. Approximately 1/8 of the beef will be in each raffle. Tickets are being sold at \$10 each. Please contact and Building Committee member.

I'm wishing everyone many blessings and much grace!!

For God and Country,
Phyllis Kennedy
ALA Unit President

Christmas is on its way!

Selecting a Cornville family is another tradition for the Legion Family. This year we chose the Cory Seaver family with a mom, dad, and 3 kiddos with one on the way!



Christmas gifts delivery...

It's always a happy day when Santa's helpers arrive before Christmas to deliver gifts. Pictured (l-r) is Lauren Seaver, mom, 1-yr-old boy, Griffyn, 2nd grader, Cole, President, Phyllis Kennedy and sister, Adilene.

Yet to arrive is newborn, Ryath who also shared in the gift receiving.

Not pictured is father, Cory.

Photo by Jeri Strande.



President Kennedy helping Adilene with a stuffed animal gift.



Membership

Membership, Membership, Membership!

Dear Legion Members,

It seems every time I turn around it's time to write another membership newsletter article encouraging you to help us recruit new members to continue serving our veterans and community. I know, you're tired of hearing and (frankly), I'm tired of preaching! So I'm going to hit it from a new angle by reminding you of one of the great programs we offer YOU through your membership.

The program, American Legion Buddy Check Program, helps us non-post home members stay in touch. We actually conducted a Buddy Check before Christmas to see the state of the post membership, but it's been several months. So we're going to do it again.

As a matter of fact, by the time you read this article, one of YOUR post officers will have called you – if you weren't home when the call came, you should have received a "message waiting".

All post officers understand that one of the disadvantages to not having a post home is that it is hard to get together and therefore, we're not physically in touch, or have the knowledge of each other's current health. In an effort to be a little closer to each other and knowledge of daily happenings, each of you should have been contacted by one of our post officers making a Buddy Check call on you. If you didn't get a call, then call ME to ensure that I have your current phone number and/or email address.

The purpose of Buddy Check program calls are simple check-ins with veterans in the community to see how YOU are doing and learn if the local post can help with anything.



As we grow a little older every day, we learn that what we did yesterday is just a little harder today! Call us if you need assistance – 99% of us are retired and although we have appointments and obligations, it's generally just a matter of coordinating to get "the job done". Remember, on the back of the newsletter are post officer's phone numbers, so don't be shy!

Along with checking on the membership health and welfare, we'll be thanking you for having paid your 2025 membership dues. If for some reason you have overlooked that you still have time either by remitting online at Legion.org/renewal or send a \$40 check to:
AL Post 135
PO Box 172
Cornville, AZ 86325

Our post goal at department membership by February 28 was 85% at this writing, we were just over 70% so if you haven't paid, please do so and help us get closer to 100%!

PS

As a recruiting incentive all **new** members will pay \$35 to join through the end of June!

Auxiliary membership –

Members,

Our renewal and new membership is coming in slowly, but with some concentrated effort by everybody, plus reminders to ask eligible friends and family, I know we can ring 100% membership bell by close of 2025!

Jeri

Jeri Strande

Post Adjutant/Unit Membership Chairman

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

CORNVILLE

4H & FFA
Discounts

MERCANTILE
HARDWARE, HAY, & FEED
928-634-2575

PO BOX 790
9420 E Cornville Rd
Cornville, AZ

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED
Cornvillemercantile@yahoo.com

Service Officer Notes

Jan Allbright

Good news! Post 135 and Veterans Serving Veterans have developed a program called "Veteran Benefits Bootcamp" to be held at the Cross Church Cornville in Cornville on March 22nd starting at 13:00 hours.

We will be going over the mechanics of successfully filing for VA Compensation Benefits and other questions associated with the benefits available to Veterans in the Verde Valley.

Space will be limited to RSVP is requested. Please give the post phone number a call (602-935-1936) and leave a message and someone will get back to you ASAP. Looking forward to seeing you there!

For God and Country,
Jan Allbright
Service Officer



Post Chaplain

Comrades and Auxiliary,

Just a quick note to wish Keith Tucker a continued recovery from the flu and hope that the rest of our Legion 135 family is doing well!

Ken Johnson
Chaplain

Auxiliary Chaplain

March is moving forward and while it may seem like we are not moving fast enough, we still heed the call "Forward March".

We need to march forward with the flame of faith in God that is within us and unites all. And now, we spring into April which is the new beginning as the trees and flowers begin to bring forth their beauty and marvel at God's Creations. We are so blessed and thankful for all we have, and that God is always with us and if we go through tough times he is there if we only TRUST Him and ask for His help.

This year Easter is in April, and we thank God for his son who died on the cross for our sins and arose again for us to have eternal life.

Prayer – Thank you, God, for your Grace, Mercy and Love for all our many blessings. In Jesus Name Amen.

Jeanette Volk
Chaplain, Auxiliary Unit 135

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 22, 2025

Legion Post135 and Veterans Serving Veterans have joined forces to present a "Veteran Benefits Bootcamp" held at the Cross Church located at 11340 E. Circle Drive in Cornville on March 22nd starting at 13:00 hours.

The presentation will go over the mechanics of successfully filing for VA Compensation Benefits and answer questions associated with benefits available to Veterans in the Verde Valley. Space is limited to RSVP is requested. Please call 602-935-1936 and leave a message and someone will get back to you ASAP.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Jan Allbright, Cmdr Post 135
James Golden, President VSV



Wreath Across American Pickup



Helping to remove the 2k wreaths placed at the Prescott VA Cemetery are (l-r) Jeri Strande, Bre Edwards, member of Unit 25 and President, Phyllis Kennedy. Also present but not pictured were Ken Johnson and Kat Hamilton, member of Unit 25.

This year “helpers” were a little shy, but it was a beautiful day and working together, the job got done!

Photographer unknow.

Unit 135 Carolers

(Photo to the right →)

Gathering in front of a Christmas tree are the Unit Christmas Carolers. Singing this year is (l-r) Jeri Strande, Jeanette Volk, President, Phyllis Kennedy, and Sharon Riffle. It is a tradition for members of the Post Family to come together to bring Christmas songs and cheer to folks residing in assisted living facilities. It’s a “sing along” with resident participation and the unit members leading the vocals.

Photographer unknown.

Yard Sale Breaktime

Fundraisers are “second nature” to Legion Post Family 135 and yard sales are common. Luckily, most yard sales are lucrative due to great donations and the folks that brave the elements to **sale, sale, sale**.

After receiving lots of “man tools” and assorted shooting accessories the natural thing to do was host a “Tool Yard Sale” for the do-it-yourself guys and gals.

It was a blistery January day, but the 4 yard sale Musketeer’s bundled up and went to work!



Braving the elements (l-r) Keith Tucker, James Golden, Jeri Strande and cashier, Phyllis Kennedy.

Photo by Sheila Stuber



Car Show #2 Coming Up!



A little background:

At the Sept. 2024 Oktoberfest Car Show, the post was approached by the Manager of Pine Shadows Community to host a car show on their property located at 2050 State Rt. 89A, Cottonwood. The question was posed to the post event coordinator during the car show and frankly, no time was available to entertain the request.

Four months later, post car show organizers addressed the possibility of a second event to the post membership and the staff at Pine Shadows. The basic ideas behind the show was to provide activities for the community for their residents who may be limited in mobility – in essence, bringing “the horse to the water” and for the post it will help us to earn funds to build our much-wanted and needed post home.

After planning meetings and many emails with Pine Shadows staff a game plan was devised – each organization had a list of commitments and responsibilities – a 2nd car show was born!

Not to create a carbon copy of the Oktoberfest, it was decided that the Shadows event would be on a much smaller scale and the vehicles shown would meet specific years parameters, thus reducing the high volume of volunteers. The open category of car registration is 1950 to 1975; those ages of vehicles are commonly known as Muscle Cars. We’re advertising 40 cars at \$40 – pre-registration is required. If 40 cars have not registered by event day, then any “day off” entries will be at first come first served bases!

Unlike the Galpin show, the competing vehicles will compete for People’s Choice and 1st-3rd place. With the cars surrounding the Pine Shadows Club House it will allow easy access for spectators using the circular road around the club house. Our Old Crow food truck will provide grilled specialties. The post will host a beverage table, 50/50 and gift raffles. This is a win-win event folks, so I hope you’ll support by volunteering to help or purchasing tickets on raffle prizes.

For more information, please contact me 928-649-3374 or email at jeristrande21@gmail.com.

Jeri Strande
Car Show Coordinator

After Christmas Open House

Photos by Judy Miller

Rather than hosting a Legion Family Christmas Party, Adjutant Jeri Strande held a New Year Open House and invited everyone to her house.

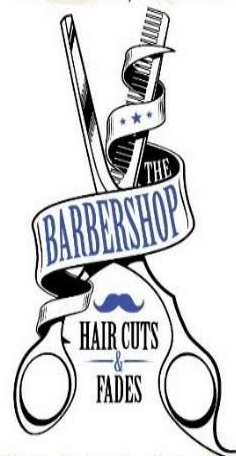


With tummies full of tasty goodies, (l-r) hostess Jeri Strande and Ed Vanlandingham enjoy the warm sun!



Posing in the fore front of the living room is (l-r) Sharon Riffle and Eleanor Mooney. Approximately 25 people attended the festivities.

1632 E. Cottonwood St.
Cottonwood, AZ 86326










928-646-7288

Calendar of Events

March

April

1	Yard Sale		1	Battle of Okinawa 1945	
5	Building Committee Meeting Cornville Fire Station	4:30pm	2	Building Committee Meeting Cornville Fire Station	4:30pm
5	Auxiliary Meeting Cornville Fire Station	6:00pm	2	Auxiliary Meeting Cornville Fire Station	6:00pm
9	Daylight Saving Time begins		6	U.S. Entry into WWI 1917	
12	Post Meeting Cornville Fire Station	6:30pm	9	Post Meeting Cornville Fire Station	6:30pm
15	Area C Oratorical Contest Camp Verde Library Doors close at 10:00am	9:30am	12	Pine Shadows Car Show Passover Begins	
17	St. Patrick's Day		13	May-June Newsletter Articles Due Palm Sunday	
20	First Day of Spring Start of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2003		15	Tax Day	
22	Veteran Benefit Bootcamp Cross Church Open to all veterans	1:00pm	18	Good Friday	
25	Congressional Medal of Honor Day		20	Easter Passover Ends	
29	Dept Oratorical Contest Sandra Day O'Connor HS		22	Earth Day	
			25	Arbor Day	

Post Officers

Position	Name	Phone
Commander	Jan Allbright	300-2386
1 st Vice Cmdr.	James Golden	300-4617
2 nd Vice Cmdr.	<i>Position Open</i>	
Finance Officer	Dale Howard	963-0965
Adjutant	Jeri Strande	649-3374
Chaplain	Ken Johnson	805-714-9369
Sgt at Arms	Keith Tucker	301-2618
E-Committee	Ken Johnson	805-714-9369
Service Officer	Jan Allbright	300-2386
Honor Guard	Keith Tucker	301-2618
Commander		

Auxiliary Officers

Position	Name	Phone
President	Phyllis Kennedy	300-7411
Vice President	<i>Position Open</i>	
Treasurer	Jeri Strande	649-3374
Recorder	Marie Sullivan	516-315-2377
Chaplain	Jeanette Volk	639-4292
Sgt at Arms	Gabby Howard	963-1656
E-Committee	Gabby Howard	963-1656
	Sharon Riffle	607-5610
Historian	Judy Miller	301-3844

NOTE: Unlisted area codes are 928

Newsletter Editor Jessica Heath 907-602-2825

Email: jessheath92@yahoo.com



Volunteers are needed for the next Flea Market on March 1, 2025 at the Post Property

Show time: 7:00am to set up tables, signs, put out treasures.

Flea Market Hours: 9 am – 2 pm

Contact Keith Tucker (928-301-2618) or Jeri Strande (928-649-3374) to confirm your participation.

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