



American Legion
Donald C Thompson
Post and Auxiliary Unit 135

United for
Veterans Newsletter

May - June 2024

Volume 47

**Post Commander
Jan Allbright**



A short message this time:
A couple short topics for your
consideration...

First, I want to extend my thanks to the superior members of Post 135 Auxiliary. These people make themselves available to provide “ground support” for all of the post activities and, quite frankly, we could not accomplish what we do without their dedicated effort. They are not thanked enough! If you are a lineal descendant of a Veteran you are eligible for Auxiliary membership. You would be joining a terrific group!

Second, the post is in need of a web-master! Our web-page is the public facing portion of our Post’s activities and a critical component of our annual Car Show (both Registration and Payment). We need someone that can help us migrate to new servers and configure PayPal payments. If you know someone that is willing and capable to provide this function. Please contact the Post Adjutant or myself.

Lastly, the Post Beef Raffle! How would you like almost 40 Lbs of Grass Feed Beef for the price of a \$10 Raffle Ticket! This is a mixed collation of roasts, steaks and hamburger. We already have one Big Winner (Ms. Jeanette Volk, Unit 135 Chaplain). Most Post members have tickets available and they make GREAT gifts!

For God and Country,
Jan Allbright
Commander

CCA Easter Egg Hunt..



Photo by Jeri Strande

Standing in front of the donated bikes are Unit President, Phyllis Kennedy and Post member and egg hunt coordinator, Ken Frankel.

Annually the Legion and Auxiliary Support the children of Cornville through the Cornville Community Easter Egg Hunt by donating funds for the purchase of two bikes.



Auxiliary President Phyllis Kennedy

Greetings American Legion
Family,



We're coming to the end of this year and our Year End Reports have been completed and sent to the AZ Department committee chairman. In Community Service we submitted 3,392 hours, miles driven at 6,249 and money spent was \$6,496.50. For Service to Veterans the Auxiliary had 761.5 hours, miles driven at 981 and total expense of \$1,204.95. Thank you one and all for your hard work and dedication. Fantastic job!!

May and June bring us sunshine and heat, so please be sure to drink lots of water! We will be distributing poppies in Sedona and Cornville on Thursday May 23rd and Friday, May 24th and hosting our Memorial Day Ceremony on Saturday, May 25th at our property in Cornville at 11:00am. Please come out and join us as we pay tribute to those comrades who have passed to Post Everlasting.

Our next District 8 meeting will be on May 3rd at Post 40 in Chino Valley, where we will be electing our officers for 2024-2025. Everyone is invited to attend. E-Committee is at 11:00am, Lunch is at noon, and the General Meeting starts at 1:00pm.

At our ALA meeting on May 1st, we will be taking nominations and electing our officers for 2024-2025. The installation of officers will be at our meeting on June 5th. We need your input and participation; please plan to attend.

AZ Dept Convention will be at Oro Valley again at El Conquistador from June 20-23, 2024. They will also be nominating and electing officers for 2024-2025. This year has really flown by – I hope it has been memorable for you and your family.

I wish everyone many blessings and pray for

continued success in all your endeavors.

For God and Country,
Phyllis Kennedy
ALA Unit President



What is Memorial Day?

It is considered the most somber day of the year as we honor all Veterans who have given their lives for our Country to make it a free Nation. For all who with pride protected us and fought for our freedom, we honor them on this special day and thank them for their sacrifices. Because of their sacrifices and shedding of their blood to protect us, we honor these veterans with a RED POPPY in memory of all soldiers who fought on battlefields and lost their lives.

Prayer

Lord, we thank you for your love, mercy, and grace in our lives. We are blessed with family and friends, especially our Veterans who have given so much so we can remain a free Country.

Please be with all of us and especially the ones who are ill and need your healing hand to help them though all the trials and tribulations.

*Be with us all because we are truly blessed by you. We give thanks to you.
In Jesus name – Amen*

*Jeanette Volk
Unit Chaplain*

Membership

As we prepare to head to the 2024 State Convention in Oro Valley Tucson 20 – 23 June and as the Post Adjutant, I'd be remiss in not submitting our post for a variety of awards. The department and National offers about 12 different awards for both group and individual awards. Several of the awards are determined by the submission of the Consolidated Post Report (CPR) which is turned in once a year.



The way it works is that each post member (or auxiliary member) is asked to keep track of the "good deeds", that they do for others throughout the current year. Along with naming the deed we also need the hours spent and miles traveled and if it concerns a veteran or youth task. Many times these deeds are reoccurring, such as working at your church, delivering Meals on Wheels or any other task so it's just a matter of annotating your list rather than having to separately jotting it down. It may also include occasional acts such as taking a friend or neighbor on errands or doctor's appointment. The form will ask you for the time you spent, cost (if any) or miles. The miles are turned into dollar amounts which are added to any of your costs reported.

Once all the numbers are added up (and in the proper category) then they are reported to department where we get recognition for the deeds we've done. When The American Legion national commander testifies before Congress, the CPR data is used to provide numerical data of what the collective American Legion is doing. We report the hours, dollars and numbers of participants to show in quantifiable ways how our organization lives up to its motto of Veterans Strengthening America.

Reporting of the numbers continues to provide praise to our organization since they are collected by National Headquarters to help quantify – for Congress, American Legion media, national leadership and more – the good

that American Legion posts do in their communities every year. National also provides recognition through their annual awards for outstanding service to our communities.

Sadly, most of our members (both auxiliary and post) fail to submit their deeds, say it's too much trouble or they don't do the act for recognition. In fact, according to national, nearly 65% of the posts don't report at all – you can be proud that your unit and post accomplishments are sent forward.

FYI - all of the Legion Family participates in this reporting the deeds they accomplish during the year, the auxiliary has a different form, but the same information to gathered! The 2023-2024 stats have been reported, but there's always next year so start saving your deeds NOW!

Wanna learn more about CPR reporting, go to Legion.org and search.

Jeri

Jeri Strande

Post Adjutant/Unit Membership Chairman



**RAFFLE TICKETS
GRASS FED BEEF**

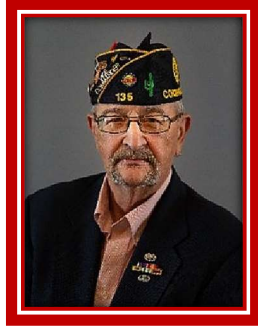
**(ABOUT 38 - 40 LBS)
\$10 EACH
100 TICKETS SOLD**

Purchase Now

From a Post Building Committee member

Service Officer Notes

Jan Allbright



YOU HAVE BEEN DENIED!

You filled out all your paperwork, got supporting statements and endured the Comp and Pen Exam. And you waited, and waited, and waited (average wait time is about 160 days) and the letter finally arrived. You rip it open and see "DENIED". What the Heck? What do you do now? Well there is some good news on the horizon .. we hope.

Statistics show that about 40% of all claim are denied for various reasons. About 80% of all claims that are filed without using a Service Officer are denied for various reasons. Currently there are three (3) paths for appeal. The first is a "De Nova Review" where "fresh eyes" review your claim and, hopefully, come to a different decision. The second is "New Data" where new and relevant medical data is discovered and the whole package gets a re-review. The third path is "Appeals" which is the VA version of the Supreme Court. This is a formal review process and can result in a "remand" (look at it all again), an "approval" (you win) or a "denial" (you lose). And at any point you can start the process over if you find new medical data.

Now come Rep. Mike Bost (R-Ill.) and Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.) with two (2) new bills to assist and steam-line this process, Called the "Veterans Appeals Options Expansion Act" and the "Veterans Appeals Efficiency Act", these pieces of legislation propose several paths to updating the appeals process which is currently looking at something like 320,000 appeals currently in the back-log. We will be following this legislation closely and will keep you updated as it progresses thru the system.

For God and Country,
Jan Allbright
Service Officer

2024 GS Orientation



Photo by Jeri Strande

Unit 135 Girls State (GS) Co-chairman explains to the 2024 GS Delegates and their families some of the activities that they will experiences at the coming GS session. For the third consecutive year, Unit 135 has hosted the GS Orientation for the girls selected to attend from District 8. Held at the Camp Verde library, there were 7 girls and their parents invited. Both Girls and Boys State will be held at the University of Tucson and Northern Arizona University respectively on June 2-8, 2024.

**Yard Sale and Flea Market
May 4th and June 1st, 2024**

**Setup 6:30am
Volunteers
and
Treasures Needed**

Weather Permitting

Poppy Distribution

By Jeri Strande

Unit 135 Poppy Chairman



When you think of Memorial Day, undoubtable you'll remember folks standing in front of stores seeking donations for a little red crepe paper poppy. It is always amazing to me the number of people who will relay a story from their youth about distributing poppies.

The Legion Family traditionally host their Memorial Day on the Saturday prior to the official holiday with the hopes that on Saturday it will be more convenient for families with children to attend. For the past 3 years, the event has been held on the post property.

Traditionally an Auxiliary program, but at our post, the Legion Family 135 join in collecting funds that are only used to support veterans and their families. Last year, the 7 individuals or in some cases, teams collected over \$750.

Unfortunately the overall amount collected was down from previous years due to the lack of volunteers. This year our volunteers will be stationed in Cornville, and Village of Oak Creek. The assigned days are **May 23 and May 24**, if you have a couple of free hours those two days and like meeting interesting people, please call me at 928-649-3374 and I'll assign you a time and location, but please call early – we have limited locations and distribute between 9am – 1pm. **First come, first served!**

Meeting the continuing needs of our veterans should be the concern of every American who values his or her freedom. The Auxiliary promotes the poppy as a symbol of the sacrifices our military have made, a symbol to open people's hearts and inspire them to donate. During the 2023 – 2024 membership year some of our poppy funds were donated to Wreath Across America for the purchase of wreaths for the Prescott VA cemetery and the District 8 Special Project which helped fund exercise equipment for veterans at the

Prescott VA hospital.

Like millions of American Legion Auxiliary poppies are distributed annually by ALA units, raising money for veterans, active duty servicemembers, and their families. Children are involved in spreading the poppy message, too. With the approval of the local schools, Poppy Poster Contests are held for students in grades 2 to 12. Additionally, the Little Miss Poppy Contest is a fun event for Junior Auxiliary members ages 6-12 who promote the Auxiliary memorial poppy.

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COMING EVENT...



OKTOBERFEST

CAR SHOW

September 21, 2024 – 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Galpin Auto & RV

925 State Hwy 89A, Cottonwood, AZ 86326

For Registration and payment:
<https://www.alazp135.org/car-show>

- **70 Spaces Available** • \$30 Preregistration • \$ 35 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 •

• Rain or Shine. •
• No Refunds! •






Sponsored By
American Legion Donald C Thompson Post 135
Cornville, AZ (602) 935-1936

Calendar of Events

May

June

1	Building Committee Meeting Cornville Fire Station	4:30pm	1	Yard Sale/Flea Market Post Property	6:30am
1	Auxiliary Meeting Cornville Fire Station	6:00pm	5	Building Committee Meeting Cornville Fire Station	4:30pm
4	Yard Sale/Flea Market Post Property	7:00am	5	Auxiliary Meeting Cornville Fire Station	6:00pm
4	District 8 Meeting Post 40 – Chino Valley	1:00pm	6	D-Day (1944)	
8	Post Meeting – Officer Installation Cornville Fire Station	6:30pm	12	Post Meeting Cornville Fire Station	6:30pm
12	Mother’s Day		14	Flag Day	
18	Armed Forces Day		19	Juneteenth Day	
23- 24	Poppy Distribution Call Jeri to volunteer!		20- 22	State Convention Oro Valley, AZ	
25	Post/Aux Memorial Day Post Property	11:00am	25	Start of the Korean War (1950)	
27	Official Memorial Day				

Post Officers

Auxiliary Officers

Position	Name	Phone	Position	Name	Phone
Commander	Jan Allbright	300-2386	President	Phyllis Kennedy	300-7411
1 st Vice Cmdr.	James Golden	300-4617	Vice President	Jeri Strande	649-3374
2 nd Vice Cmdr.	Jeri Strande	649-3374	Treasurer	Marie Sullivan	516-315-2377
Finance Officer	Dale Howard	963-0965	Secretary	<i>Position Open</i>	
Adjutant	Jeri Strande	649-3374	Chaplain	Jeanette Volk	639-4292
Chaplain	Ken Johnson	805-714-9369	Sgt at Arms	Gabby Howard	963-1656
Sgt at Arms	Keith Tucker	301-2618	E- Committee	Gabby Howard	963-1656
E-Committee	Ken Johnson	805-714-9369		Sharon Riffle	607-5610
	Jerry Wesch		Historian	Judy Miller	301-3844
Service Officer	Jan Allbright	300-2386			
Honor Guard Commander	Keith Tucker	301-2618	<i>NOTE: Unlisted area codes are 928</i>		

Newsletter Editor Jessica Heath 907-602-2825

Email: jessheath92@yahoo.com



Volunteers are needed the 1st Saturday of every month for the Flea Market at the Post Property

Show time: 6:30am 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