

THE VERDE VALLEY BUGLE CALL

Post 25 Cottonwood AZ
480 S. Calvary Way



POST
25
COTTONWOOD AZ

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



April 2026

Newsletter@alpost25az.org

Editor: David Kauppinen (USN)

Commander: Bill Tinnin (USA)

First Vice Cdr: James Galczynski (USN)

Adjutant: John Scott (USN)

Executive Committee: Keith Vogler (USMC) - Jamie Galczynski (USN) - Winifred Follett (USAF)

Finance Officer: DeDe Dexter (USAF)

Second Vice Cdr: Vacant

Sergeant-at-Arms: Dave Bickel (USA)

Previous issues of this newsletter are available at <https://alpost25az.org>

Post Officers through their leadership are vital to advancing the American Legion's Four Pillars: I - Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, II National Security, III Americanism, and IV - Children & Youth. (Reference [Why You Should Belong](#))

Adjutant Message



The 2026-2027 Post Officer nominations will occur at the General Meeting on April 20th and the election will be held on May 18th. There are 9 positions on the Executive Committee and all positions are open for volunteers who wish to support our Post. Note that 3 of our longterm Officers are not running again and it is important that we fill those vacancies to keep the Post running efficiently without overloading those that do vounteer. See the [Post Officer Duties Overview](#)

We also need volunteers to served on support committees and for the upcoming 250th Celebration activities, Family Fun days, 4th of July events, maintenance of the Post for carpentry, electrical, plumbing, painting skills and more. Help support our Post by being a volunteer! If you would like to discuss, then please contact me at adjutant@alpost25az.org.

Membership status: As of March 16, Post 25 is at 365 Active members, (97.1%) of our 2026 membership goal of 398. Updated 2026 member rosters have been distributed to the Board Members for support of focused renewal and recruitment efforts.

John Scott, Adjutant

Veterans Resource Officer Message



The VA is making it easier than ever to keep your claim on track. With the new [Claim Assist Portal](#) you'll have a faster, more convenient way to respond when additional information is needed. If you've filed a benefits claim, you may receive an email with a direct link to the portal, helping you respond quickly and confidently so your claim can keep moving forward. No more paperwork, scanning, or searching through VA.gov is required. Log in using: 1) The email that received the message, 2) A temporary password provided in the message, 3) A time-sensitive verification code sent to your email after you log in using the email address and temporary password.

Jamie Galczynski, VRO

New Members

Post 25 welcomes the following new and transfer Legion members:



ARMY



MARINES



NAVY



AIR FORCE



COAST GUARD

Abraham Beltran - Army Tom Sanders - Army Tony Johnson - Army John Brass - Coast Guard

Auxiliary President Message



I want to thank everyone who participated in our Child Well-Being Foundation (CWF) challenge by bringing in their spare change or donating cash. We raised \$2,000 as a TEAM.

SAL: \$200

Riders: \$200

Legion: \$200

Auxiliary: \$1400

DeDe Dexter, President Unit 25

SAL Squadron Commander Message



Reminder that our next monthly meeting is on April 6th at 5pm. Looking forward to seeing everyone. 2026 - 2027 SAL Officer Nomination will be at this meeting. Please try to attend this meeting.

The Sons Dinner will be on April 9th starting at 5pm. We will be serving Sloppy Joes and Tater Tots. Please come out and support your Squadron.

Reminder that SAL National Camp Out is April 10 – 12 at Dead Horse State Park in Cottonwood. There will be SAL Dignitaries from National and Detachment attending Camp Out. These Dignitaries will be at Post 25 for Friday's Fish Fry on April 10th. Come meet our SAL Dignitaries.

Reminder to renew your 2026 membership cards to keep your Post privileges current. Renew now if you haven't already done so. Our 2027 membership cards will be available in July. See our website for: [How to Renew Your Membership](#)

Rick Shriver, Squadron Commander

Upcoming Post Activities – April 2026

Legion Family meeting dates and additional information can be found on the Post Calendar at <https://alpost25az.org> and <https://www.facebook.com/AmLeg.Post.25>

- The following meals will occur on Thursday Bingo nights this month from 5PM to 6:30PM:
 - April 02 - Bill's Chicken Wings
 - April 09 - Sons Dinner: Sloppy Joes and Tater Tots
 - April 16 - Boy Scouts: Chicken & Waffles
 - April 23 - Auxiliary: Mac n' Cheese with ham, green beans, & salad
 - April 30 - To Be Determined

April 26 - Concealed Carry Weapons (CCW) Class 8 am-Noon. See [US Concealed Carry Registration](#)
If registering on-line, Post members should leave the Credit Card spaces blank and use Coupon Code "ALP25", or register at the door prior to 8 am.

Reminder - [Post Scholarship Applications](#) are due May 8th. Volunteers are needed to review the scholarships. If you can help, please contact Keith Vogler at scholarship@alpost25az.org

Upcoming Area Activities – April 2026

Arizona Crisis Team (ACT) Volunteer: ACT is a non-profit organization that provides emotional, practical, and resource assistance to citizens in Yavapai County. Training for volunteers begins for the multiple Yavapai County areas on Friday, April 11, 2026. For more information, see [Arizona Crisis Team Volunteer](#)

Arizona Drivers License Renewal Information

Arizona does not send a drivers license renewal notice like what many other states do. It is the drivers responsibility to to renew before the expiration date. Below are the requirements:

Under 65: renew every 12 years for a new photo and vision test. Note that the license is still valid if you fail to do this.

65 and older: renew every 5 years for a new photo and vision test each time. Note that driving on an expired license is a Class 2 Misdemeanor per A.R.S. § 28-3478, and may result in: \$750 fine, up to 4 months in jail, up to 2 years probation, or Community service. Ref: [License Renewal Over Age 65](#)

One can renew in person at MVD for \$25 or an authorized third-party provider like FooteWork which is more expensive. At the Cottonwood DMV Office the wait line can be 30 minutes or longer on Mondays and Fridays, so to significantly reduce the wait time, make an appointment at [AZMDVNOW Website](#).

Phone Scams

On February 20th a resident in the Mountain Gate area of Clarkdale was defrauded of \$14,000 via text and phone calls from someone impersonating a bank representative. On February 26 a resident in Mingus Shadows area was defrauded of approximately \$6,000 through a phishing attack. Police are investigating. **Advice**: If you get a call, text, or email from anyone wanting money, then hang up the phone and call that person, bank, or business directly. With the current abilities of Artificial Intelligence (AI), scammers can even duplicate the voice of a friend or relative. See [12 Scams Targeting Seniors](#)

American Legion Membership Information

FYI -You can update your emergency contact, address, phone number, etc. on the American Legion National website. Login or Register to access your membership information at [My Legion](#). Also, please let the Post Adjutant know if your address or phone number changes.

Military Specialty Highlight

U.S. Air Force Guardian Angels are a specialized non-aircraft, equipment-based *human weapon system* composed of Pararescuemen (PJs), Combat Rescue Officers (CROs), and Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) Specialists dedicated to executing Combat Search, and Rescue (CSAR) and Personnel Recovery (PR) across the full spectrum of military operations.

Their Core Mission is to "search and save" rather than "search and destroy," often embedded with other Special Operations Forces to provide medical and tactical expertise. PJs are highly trained paramedics and combat operators capable of performing field surgery, combat trauma management, and medical evacuations.



In addition to traditional air and ground assets, the system utilizes the Storm Search and Rescue Tactical Vehicle (SRTV) for surface rescue and mobility over adverse terrain. The pipeline to becoming a PJ is known as the "Superman School," lasting approximately two years with an attrition rate of around 80%.

Reference: [USAF Fact Sheet](#)

Military History - The Soldier Bear



Originally from Syria, Wojtek, nicknamed 'Soldier Bear', was adopted by the 22nd Transport Company's Artillery Division in the Polish II Corps in 1942, after an Iranian boy traded the bear for food. He served alongside his human comrades during the Italian Campaign and became a lasting symbol of Polish comradeship. Wojtek was more than a mascot, but another person of the unit, smoking cigarettes which he later ate, drinking beer, and play

wrestling with the men. The 22nd Company was one of the artillery units tasked with delivering ammunition to the front line. Wojtek was part of these efforts, carrying empty ammunition boxes from the lorry so they could be refilled. By the end of the war, he had been promoted to the status of Corporal and was a familiar sight on the battle ground. Reference: [The Bear Soldier of WWII](#)

