

THE VERDE VALLEY BUGLE CALL

Post 25 Cottonwood AZ
480 S. Calvary Way



POST
25
COTTONWOOD AZ

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



July 2026

Newsletter@alpost25az.org

Editor: David Kauppinen (USN)

Commander: John Scott (USN)
First Vice Cdr: David Kauppinen (USN)
Adjutant: Marilyn James (USN)
Executive Committee: Keith Vogler (USMC) - Clint Lisk (USAF) - 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>

Commander Message



Hello fellow American Legion Family members! Welcome to the new American Legion 2027 Fiscal Year started July 1st! This brings two big changes:

1) Initiation of New Post Officers. Following are the new officers who have volunteered and been elected on the Executive Committee and to our Legion Family leadership:

AMERICAN LEGION

Commander: John Scott
1st Vice: David Kauppinen
2nd Vice: Currently Vacant
Adjutant: Marilyn James
Finance Officer: DeDe Dexter
Sgt-at-Arms: David Bickel
E-Committee 1: Winifrid Follett
E-Committee 2: Clint Lisk
E-Committee 3: Keith Vogler
Chaplain: Chuck Desch

[Legion Officer Photos](#)

AUXILIARY UNIT

President: Peggy Miller
1st Vice: DeDe Dexter
2nd Vice: Jody Gregory
Secretary: Patti Tucker
Treasurer: Marilyn James
Sgt-at-Arms: Pam Diffin
E-Committee 1: Kat Hampton
E-Committee 2: Denise Kennedy
E-Committee 3: Gail Doemland
Chaplain: Sandy Jenocovich
Membership: Lisa Tinnin-Young

[Auxiliary Officer Photos](#)

Commander Message (continued)

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander: Rick Shriver
1st Vice: Bruce Menne
2nd Vice: Bob Hall
Adjutant: Vinny Berdar
Finance Officer: Jack Schooley
Sgt-at-Arms: Bill Burchett
E-Committee 1: Guy Yeager
E-Committee 2: Ray Erhardt
E-Committee 3: Arye Algazy
Chaplain: Richard Murphy
[SAL Officer Photos](#)

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Director: Gary Wilhelm
Asst. Director: Sheryl McKenney
Secretary: Jackie Algazy
Treasurer: Arye Algazy
Sgt-at-Arms: Karen Beebe
1st Road Captain: Arye Algazy
2nd Road Captain: Jason Sharp
Membership: Allen Oleson
Chaplain: Gary Wilhelm
[ALR Officer Photos](#)

2) New Legion Membership Fiscal Year

As of today, 1 July, we've started the new Legion Fiscal Year so you can renew your 2027 Membership. Members who renew by October 31st will receive the "Early Bird" stamp on their card which entitles them to a free dinner (usually December). Big advantage is this card is good for 18 months until December 2027!. We'll be contacting all the renewal, new and transfers to campaign for this membership.

Volunteer Opportunity



We received two picnic tables that were donated to us. They need painting and we have all the materials to paint it, we just need a couple of volunteers to do the job! Contact me by email at amprouxo@hotmail.com. Thanks in advance!

John Scott, Commander

Auxiliary President Message



For more than 50 years, I have proudly served as a dedicated member of the American Legion Auxiliary. I have moved through the chairs in two states and have had the honor of serving as National Vice President, giving me a deep understanding of leadership, mission, and service. I want to strengthen our community. I believe every member has something meaningful to offer, and I have always been passionate about helping others grow in confidence and purpose. As I step into the role of Unit President, my focus is clear. I hope to mentor members, encourage involvement, and help members discover their own strengths within the American Legion and the Auxiliary. My goal is to build a supportive, welcoming Unit where members feel valued, informed, and inspired to participate. I bring not only experience, but heart, and I look forward to leading with both.

Peggy Miller, President

SAL Squadron Commander Message



The Sons will not have any meetings in July or August. We will resume our meeting on Tuesday September 8th, due to Labor Day on Monday September 7th.

There will be a Big 4th of July “250th Anniversary” Celebration with a Potluck Dinner and raffles, starting at 4pm, and fireworks starting at 9pm. Bring your favorite dish to share.

The Sons Dinner will be on July 9th starting at 5pm. We will be serving Chicken Sandwiches, Cole Slaw, and Chips. Please come out and support your Squadron.

Starting on July 13th your 2027 membership cards will be available on-line, by mail, or by stopping at the Post. Please give your name and \$40 to the Bartender and she will see that your renewal is given to our Adjutant.

Membership dues are \$40.00. To renew your membership, see Rick Shriver or Vinny Berdar. Dues can also be paid by mail to: American Legion Post 25 Attention Rick Shriver, 480 S. Calvery Way Cottonwood AZ 86326. Checks should be made out to "American Legion Squadron 25".

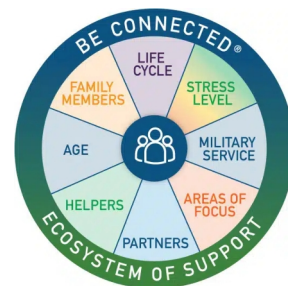
Rick Shriver, Squadron Commander

Veterans Service Officer Message



The [Be Connected](#) program provides an Ecosystem of Support to Arizona’s service members (Active Duty, Guard & Reserve), veterans and their family members, caregivers, and community members through the statewide support line, 866-4AZ-VETS. Benefits, Employment Career Coaching, Groceries, Higher Education, Housing, Mental Health, Mentorship, SkillBridge,

Training Courses, and Volunteer Opportunities. All calls are confidential and resource navigation services are provided at no cost.



Jamie Galczynski, VRO

Upcoming Post Activities – July 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:
 - July 02 - Food Truck: Dog Town
 - July 09 - SAL: Chicken Sandwiches, Cole Slaw, and Chips
 - July 16 - Boy Scouts: TBD
 - July 23 - Auxiliary: Rib Dinner
 - July 30 - Bill Tinnin: Chicken Wings
- July 4th: Potluck 4 to 6PM, fireworks observance at 9PM from the Post parking lot (excellent view)

For Sale and Free

Free Firewood:



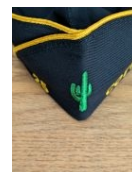
Available to any member, first to show up gets it all or whatever is wanted. Left photo shows the Post back patio; get gate key from the bartender. Right photo is at the Northeast corner of the Post parking lot by the shed. Load up.



Post 25 Uniform Cap and Ball Cap:



New cap, size 7, cost + tax + shipping from Legion Emblem Sales was \$76.83. Half price sale \$38.



New Navy Retired ball cap, molded brim, adjustable buckle \$10.

For either one, respond to info@alpost25az.org or call 760-500-5046.

Military News

The Navy and the Marine Corps saw the lowest suicide rate in four years, according to the Pentagon's recently released suicide report covering calendar year 2024. In 2024, the Navy had 60 suicides, while the Marine Corps had 46, according to the annual suicide report, which the Pentagon quietly released March 31. The Marine Corps saw a huge drop in its suicide rate, going from 37.1 per 100,000 in 2023 to 27.3 per 100,000 in 2024. The Navy's drop was more subtle, going from 20.4 per 100,000 to 18.2.

Although rates dropped across the military, overall trend lines suggest that rates, when adjusted for sex and age, continue to rise since at least 2011. While the Navy trend suggests suicide rates are still climbing, it appears that the Navy's trend line is increasing slower than the Marine Corps.

"Suicide prevention and postvention efforts remain a top priority for the Navy. While death by suicide decreased across the force from 2023 to 2024, suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention (i.e., prevention) remain a complex and enduring challenge," a Navy official said in a statement.

(Ref. [USNI](#) 4/13/26)

**By replacing
your morning
coffee with green
tea, you can lose
up to 87% of
what little joy
you still have
left in your life.**