



American Legion
Joseph Q. Johnson Post 96
PO Box 7096
Surprise, Arizona 85374-0101



Newsletter No. 256

azalpost96.com

February 2025

Commander: Mike Elliott 623-533-4377
First Vice-Commander: Arnold Kohl 602-692-0659
Second Vice-Commander: Kelly Donlevy 602-299-5007
Finance Officer: George Van de Langeryt 623-547-6668
Adjutant: (Acting) Arnold Kohl
Chaplain: Joe Urshan 623-584-4653
Judge Advocate: George Van de Langeryt
Executive Committee: Mike Elliott, Arnold Kohl, Kelly Donlevy, George Van de Langeryt, Nancie Scalercio

Post 96 Officers

Newsletter: George Van de Langeryt gvan8888@aol.com 478-501-6625
Sergeant-At-Arms: Rod Hage
Membership: Mike Elliott & George Van 602-299-5007
Fundraising Chair: Kelly Donlevy msgtrod@hotmail.com
Service Officer: Rodney Hage 478-501-6625
VA Hospital Coordinator: Rodney Hage 207-706-6250
Photographer: Paul Satkowski
Historian: VACANT
Past Commander: Nancie Scalercio 623-826-3488
ALR Chapter 96 Director: Eddie Jenness 480-584-1145

The Surprise Post 96 Newsletter is the official publication of Joseph Q. Johnson Post 96

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

NEXT Post business meeting 1800 February 27 at AZ Traditions
17225 N Citrus Rd., Surprise, AZ 85374
We meet in the Traditions Neighborhood Center 18265 Traditions Loop Rd E
PLEASE - ASK THE GATE GUARD FOR DIRECTIONS
Post Officer's meeting 1600 Thursday February 6 at the Commander's home
Voiture 1154 Promenade on 1000 Saturday February 1 at the Post 145 meeting room
Marty Schwab Memorial Breakfast 1000 Sunday February 16
Richi's Diner - 15609 W Bell Rd #100, Surprise, AZ 85374
ALR Chapter 96 will be meeting after the Post meeting on February 27 at AZ Traditions

COMMANDERS CORNER



I shockingly received a plaque for the Post that wrote Christmas cards for our troops. Post 62 started this program a few years ago and had won the award three years in a row. They knew that something had to change because of the Post numbers (includes: regular members, Sons, and Auxiliary) and felt that this was an unfair challenge to other Posts. The change they made was to calculate Post size and how many cards were written. Hence the reason why we won our name on the plaque. My congratulations go to Tom Frizzell, Nina Olsen, Arnie Kohl, and Nancie Scalercio. Thank you very much.

Our first meeting for the year on January 23 was very successful. We got three new members, had food,

and generally had fun together. Thank you for coming to our meeting.

Membership:

If you did not know, our dues have risen to \$50 as of January 1, 2025. This is due to the rising cost to us from National. Our new and transfer members are: Andrew Zukewycz (a.k.a. Zuke), Gary Elliott (no relation) and Gerald Ridlehoover.

For God and Country,
Mike Elliott, Legion Rider, Post 96 Commander

FROM THE FIRST VICE-COMMANDER



Greetings, fellow Legionnaires,
January was a busy month highlighted by my attending Arizona American Legion College in Tucson January 24-26. You may have never heard of the college, but I hope this article will perk your interest

in attending one of the future sessions. The Arizona American College is offered about four times a year with each session in a different region of the State. If you have any interest at all in filling an appointed, or elected position in your Post, District, Department, or even at National level the information you learn in this class is extremely valuable. The College may also be valuable for anyone who just wants to learn about the American Legion, how a Post is supposed to operate and how the various positions in a Post are supposed to operate.

The first step in attending is completing the on-line American Legion Basic Training course, which is



Arnie Taking Final Exam

broken up into five topics- History and Organization, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation.

National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth, the last four being the Four Pillars of The American Legion. Basic Training takes about two and a half hours and there is a test after each section. The basic course is found at www.legion.org/alei

After taking the Basic Training course, you will receive a diploma and be eligible to attend Arizona American Legion College and may fill out the application to attend. The College will have classes on Membership, My Legion, Proper Use of our Emblems, Public Relations, Protocol, Robert's Rules of Order, and much more. You will also be challenged with writing a resolution and creating a plan to address a problem at a local Post. The resolution and problem solving are completed as a



Presenting our problem solving solution

team and you will present them after the final exam on the last day of class.

The College was challenging as you receive a huge amount of information and even though the days are long, 0730-1930 the first two days it is a short time to learn this much. That is why you receive resource materials, which you are taught how to use.

If you are interested in attending the next class will take place April 25-27, 2025, at Post 13 in Williams, Arizona. Visit WWW.Azlegioncollege.org for more information.

This was truly a great experience. Thank you to the wonderful instructors.



Arnie Graduates!



Arizona American Legion College Class 2025-1

For God and Country,
Arnold "Arnie" Kohl, 1st Vice Commander

FROM THE SECOND VICE-COMMANDER



No article this month.

For God and Country,
Kelly Donlevy, 2nd Vice Commander

FROM THE FINANCE OFFICER AND JUDGE ADVOCATE



Remember, Post 96 dues are now \$50!
Our District 11 Commander Gary Vaughn is a candidate for Dept of AZ Commander. The election will be at the June State Convention. He has the support of Post 96. Gary is a retired USMC Colonel and served as a fighter pilot. He worked as a pilot for Delta Airlines. He is very active in the Boy Scouts. Gary was Dept Legionnaire of the Year in 2024.

Semper Fi!

George Van de Langeryt
Finance Officer & Judge Advocate
Past Commander & Legion Rider
AZ Veterans Hall of Fame – Class of 2018

FROM THE CHAPLAIN



Heavenly Father, We come before You today with hearts full of gratitude. Thank You for the gift of this new year and for bringing us safely into February. Thank You for Your faithfulness, Your mercy, and Your love that never fails.

Amen.

For God and Country,
Chaplain Joe Urshan

SICK CALL

Karen Van de Langeryt is having back surgery at Del Webb on February 4. Unfortunately, Karen has some issues and they kept her a couple days. She came home on Thursday but had problems with her legs. She fell and we had to call the Paramedics to get her up. They adjusted her walker and show her how to use it to get up and down. That night she could not get up to go to the bathroom. Friday morning I called CORE several times and no one called us back. We called the Paramedics and they took her back to Del Webb. The hospital is finding a rehabilitation facility to take Karen in for a few days until she is stead on her feet again.

Rider Director Eddie Jenness was hospitalized late January for a kidney problem. He is doing better and is home.

Please inform Chaplain Joe if you or your family are having medical problems. The Post will pray for you.

POST EVERLASTING

Robert B. Kinniburgh, of Sun City, went to Post Everlasting on February 1, 2025. Robert would have been 94 on February 25. He was a 61-year member of the Legion. We have no further information.

FROM THE FUND RAISING CHAIRMAN



Our two fundraisers we have each year, at Sam’s Club are scheduled. We are set up for the weekend before Memorial Day, May 23-25, and the weekend before Veteran’s Day, November 7-9. More information and a sign-up sheet will be sent as we get closer to each weekend.

I hope to see some new faces out there helping us!

For God and Country,
Kelly Donlevy, Fundraising Chair

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of 2/1, we have 54 members pay dues to the Post, 60 pay online, 1 transfer from Post 100 and 35 PUFL’s: total 150. Our goal is 170 so we are at 88.24% of goal.

The winner of the Membership Drawing at the January 23 meeting is Maurice Imming who unfortunately was not present to win dues for a year. It pays to attend meetings!

Welcome aboard to new members to Post 96!
Gary Elliott, USAF veteran from Post 100.
Michael Finley, USMC veteran, a new member.
Gerald Ridlehoover, a new member.
Andrew Zukewycz (a.k.a. Zuke)

Have you moved, changed your phone number or email address? If so, please contact Mike or George. Give us the new information and we will update the records so you will continue to get your Legion Magazine and the Post Newsletter mailed or emailed to the proper address.

Mike & George

From the VA Hospital Coordinator / Service Officer



No message this month.

Rod Hage
The American Legion Post 96
Service Officer

DAV Chapter 24 Service Officer
Commander, DAV Star Chapter 24

Voiture Locale 1154 Report



Our next Promenade is scheduled for 1000 February 1 and we will meet again at Post 145. Yeah, it is a drive but the meeting room is very comfortable.

Interested in the 40&8? Please talk to any of our members in Post 96.

George Van de Langeryt
Commissaire Intendant, Voiture 1154
Voiture Locale 1154 Fundraising Coordinator

American Legion Riders Report



Nothing new for February.

Eddie Jenness, ALR 96 Director
alr96.president@gmail.com

February Calendar

Saturday February 1 – 1100 40&8 Voiture 1154
Promenade at Arrowhead Valley Apartments
20025 N 81st Ave
Peoria, AZ 85382

This is a Zoom Meeting join:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89838520005>
Meeting ID: 898 3852 0005
One tap mobile: +16694449171, 89838520005# US
Find your local number:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89838520005>

February 2, 1848 - The war between the U.S. and Mexico ended with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. In exchange for \$15 million, the U.S. acquired the areas encompassing parts or all of present day California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Texas. The treaty was ratified on March 10, 1848.

February 3, 1943 - An extraordinary act of heroism occurred in the icy waters off Greenland after the U.S. Army transport ship Dorchester was hit by a German torpedo and began to sink rapidly. When it became apparent there were not enough life jackets, four U.S. Army chaplains on board removed theirs, handed them to frightened young soldiers, and chose to go down with the ship while praying.

February 4, 1861 - Apache Chief Cochise was arrested in Arizona by the U.S. Army for raiding a ranch. Cochise then escaped and declared war, beginning the period known as the Apache Wars, which lasted 25 years.

Wednesday February 5 – 0900-1000 - Veterans Coffee Hour at Surprise Funeral Care, 16063 W Bell Rd, Surprise, AZ. Every 1st Wednesday of each month, Veterans are invited to a free coffee hour, compliments of Dignity Memorial.

Wednesday February 5 – Senior Day at Fry’s, Bashas’ and Albertsons. 10% discount on your groceries.

Thursday February 6 – 1600 Post 96 Officers meeting at Mike Elliott’s home.

February 8, 1910 - The Boy Scouts of America was founded by William Boyce in Washington, D.C., modeled after the British Boy Scouts.

February 9, 1943 - During World War II in the Pacific, U.S. troops captured Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands after six months of battle, with 9,000 Japanese and 2,000 Americans killed.

Tuesday February 11 – 0900-1000 Veteran’s Coffee Hour at Sunland Memorial Park. All vets and friends are invited for coffee and nibbles. Second Tuesday every month. In the Chapel building at 15826 N Del Webb Blvd, Sun City, AZ 85351.

Tuesday February 11 – 11:45-12:30 Massing of the Colors. Please see flyer. Come early to get a seat and listen to the Desert Brass Band.

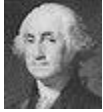
Wednesday February 12 – 1630 – White Tank Mountain Detachment 1246 of the Marine Corps League meets at:
Kimbles Kitchen
17300 N. Sun Village Parkway #D
Surprise, AZ 85374.

Friday February 14 - Celebrated as (Saint) Valentine's Day around the world, now one of the most widely observed unofficial holidays in which romantic greeting cards and gifts are exchanged.

February 14, 1912 - Arizona, formerly part of the Territory of New Mexico, was organized as a separate territory on February 24, 1863. The U.S. acquired the

region under the terms of the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the 1853 Gadsden Purchase. Arizona became the forty-eighth state o February 14, 1912.

Sunday February 16 - 1000 Marty Schwab Memorial Breakfast at Richi's Diner, Bell & Reems. All veterans and family are invited to this informal gathering.



Saturday February 22 - George Washington (1732-1799) was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He served as commander of the Continental Army during the American Revolution and became the first U.S. President.

February 23, 1942 - During World War II, the first attack on the U.S. mainland occurred as a Japanese submarine shelled an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing minor damage.

February 24, 1582 - Pope Gregory XIII corrected mistakes on the Julian calendar by dropping 10 days and directing that the day after October 4, 1582 would be October 15th. The Gregorian, or New Style calendar, was then adopted by Catholic countries, followed gradually by Protestant and other nations.

Tuesday February 25 – 1000 Disabled American Veterans Star Chapter 24 meets at Flagstar Bank, 14543 W Grand Ave., Surprise 85374. The meeting is held in the basement and there is an elevator. All veterans are invited.

Thursday February 27 – 1800 Social Hour, 1900 Business Meeting. American Legion Post 96 meeting is at the AZ Traditions Neighborhood Center. Come for the raffle prizes! Bring a guest.

Thursday February 27 – About 2000 American Legion Riders Chapter 96 meeting after the Post 96 business meeting at AZ Traditions. This is a temporary change.

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday March 4 - Post 94 Pancake Breakfast.

Saturday March 8 – District 11 Car Show. See flyer.

Up Coming, District 11 Meetings

All Meetings on Sunday

Gary Vaughn, District 11 Commander

Note: Post Commanders are required to attend District Meetings. They may be accompanied by members of their leadership teams. If a Post Commander cannot attend, a “proxy” may be assigned in writing and delivered to the Adjutant before the meeting. “In person” attendance is preferred, however participation via ZOOM link is permissible

(link to be posted on the Facebook page and sent by message to District and Post leadership).

Mar. 9, 2025: Hazelton – Butler Post 53
402 E. Narramore Ave., Buckeye, AZ 85326
Times: Training 1300-1345, GMM 1400-1600
Remarks: Officer Nominations

May 18, 2025: Crandall-Palmer Post 61
35 N Dysart Rd, Avondale, AZ 85323
(3rd Sunday change due to Mother’s Day)
Times: Training 1300-1345, GMM 1400-1600
Remarks: Officer elections

Coordinating Instructions:

- District Officer and Committee Chair reports are due to the District Adjutant one week prior to the published meeting date so they may be distributed for review before the meeting.
- Training will include Service Officer and other administrative training deemed necessary by the District Commander or as requested by Post Commanders.



FROM THE EDITOR

Newsletter is late as Karen has been in the hospital since February 4.

Please help us find new businesses or individuals to advertise in our newsletter. It is only \$5/month (\$60/year) and we give Legion Members a 20% discount.

George Van de Langeryt
Past Commander & Newsletter Editor





2ND ANNUAL AMERICAN LEGION DISTRICT 11 FUNDRAISER CAR SHOW SAT March 8, 2025



**Antique
Pre 1960**



**Classic
1961 - 1980**



**Late Model
1981 - Present**

AWARDS
Viewers Choice
Auxiliary Choice
Veterans Choice
Post Attendance Awards
Trophy presentation at 2 PM

LOCATION:
American Legion Post 29
6822 N 57th Dr Glendale,
AZ 85301
11 AM - 2 PM

REGISTRATION
\$25 (prior to day)
Day Of \$30
Portion of the proceeds to
benefit local Veteran
Non-Profits

<https://Veteranshomecommunityshow.eventbrite.com>

TOP 5 POSTS WITH AT LEAST 30 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE GET MONEY FOR THEIR POST





Maricopa County StandDown Legal Screening

Legal assistance screening is available by phone to veterans in advance of the StandDown.

February 3rd - March 7th, 2025

Veterans can receive legal assistance with the following:

- Maricopa County Criminal Cases
- Justice Court Misdemeanor Cases
- Out of County and Out of State Criminal Cases
- Marijuana Expungements
- Restoration of Rights
- Divorce, Child and Spousal Support
- VA Disability and Military Discharge Issues
- Bankruptcy and Collections
- Civil Claims
- Estate Planning
- Landlord and Tenant
- Social Security and Disability
- City Court Cases for the following: Carefree, Cave Creek, Chandler, Fountain Hills, Glendale, Gilbert, Mesa, Paradise Valley, Phoenix, Scottsdale, Tempe

This is not an all-inclusive list of services offered during this event. Veterans may still be required to attend an in-person screening at the StandDown on March 13-14th for some of these topics, whether listed or not.

TO PARTICIPATE IN A LEGAL SCREENING, CALL BE CONNECTED:

1-866-4AZ-VETS (429-8387)

Hours of operation Monday-Friday 8am- 5pm. If the team is not available, please leave a message. Calls are returned within two business days. After the screening, veterans will receive a follow-up call from the legal team.

A few photos from the January 23 Post 96 meeting, thanks to Post Photographer Paul Satkowski



Linda Satkowski, Nancie Scalercio Past Commander, Dave Favela and Bobbie Schwab



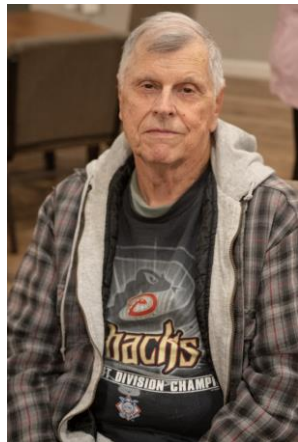
New Member Zuke Zukewycz and Service Officer Rod Hage



Travis Cernetisch with family Leslie and Skyler



Chaplain Joe Urshan



New member Gerald Ridle Hoover



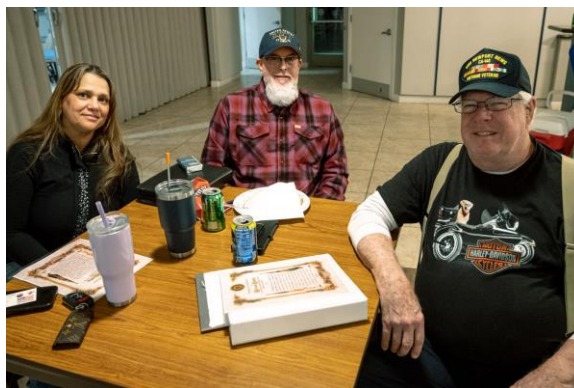
Tom Frizzell Audio Guru




Commander Mike with New Post Award for car for Troops



Second Vice Kelly Donlevy handles the Raffle



Riders: Karina Burch, Eddie Jenness and Tom Roark



2025
Arizona Veterans
Home and Community Fair and
Car/Motorcycle Show

FREE
FREE
FREE

Saturday March 8th, 2025
11 am – 2 pm
Inside/Outside at American Legion Post 29
6822 N 57th Dr Glendale, AZ 85301

Speakers






Department Commander Manny Beltran
Area B Vice President Commander Jesse Fernandez
District 11 Commander Gary Vaughn
District 11 Auxiliary President Donna Aronoff
District 11 Service Officer Rod Hage
Chairman, Department of AZ ALR, Tracey Lindsey

What to Expect

- ★ Veteran Owned Businesses
- ★ AL Riders -600 Helmets Distribute for Donations
- ★ VSO to assist with VA Claims
- ★ Veteran Community Health Resources
- ★ Car/Motorcycle Show
- ★ Portion of the Proceeds supporting Veteran Non-profits

Veterans, Veteran Supporters, Veteran Families and Friends!
Veterans are so important to our community!

<https://Veteranshomecommunityshow.eventbrite.com>



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Chapter 131, West Valley, AZ

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**Massing of the Colors
and
Service of Remembrance**



With the Desert Brass Band

**A Patriotic Ceremony in Memory of Our POWs, MIAs and Our Deceased
Military Men and Women Who Have Served Our Country**

Featured Speaker

Dr. Connie Mariano, MD, FACP

Rear Admiral, USN Retired

“Life Lessons from Military Service”

Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 11:15 a.m.

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PLEASE VISIT THESE ADVERTISERS AND TELL THEM YOU SAW THEIR CARD IN THE POST 96 NEWSLETTER!

**American Legion
Joseph Q. Johnson Post 96, Inc.
PO Box 7096
Surprise, Arizona 85374-0101**



Forwarding Service Requested – February



Have you signed up a *NEW* member for 2025?