



AHWATUKEE AMERICAN LEGION POST 64

February 2023

<http://www.americanlegionpost64.com>

**CHECK OUT THE POST WEBSITE. INFORMATION INCLUDED:
Photos, Newsletters, Uniforms, Veterans' Benefits, Congressional
Contacts, Items of Interest,
Links to other Veterans' Websites, Flag Etiquette, and Much More !**

Upcoming Post 64 Events

Feb 15- Monthly Membership Meeting- 4:00 PM

Mar 4- Springfest Dance and Light Dinner- 5:30 PM

Mar 11- District 12 Family BBQ- Noon at Desert Breeze Park

For more information and links to the past newsletters:
Go to www.AmericanLegionPost64.com

First Vice Commander – Brenda Smull

The total number of paid member is 105 this is 94.6% from last year's baseline of 111. The District 12 membership goal is 170 and we are 62%.

The formation of a Post 64 Auxiliary is progressing well. We have over 10 people who are interested in joining. We are currently collecting the annual \$35.00 dues and will schedule a Charter Organization meeting in February. Please contact me at bsmull@me.com if you are interested in joining this exciting new group.

I attended the District 12 Officer meeting on January 15, 2023, with Commander Pete Meier. I was very impressed with the strong and focused leadership of the group. Our post really needs to have a trained Service Officer to meet the needs of the veterans in our community.

As the new COR (Charter Organization Representative) for Boy Scout Troop #172 in Tempe, I attended my first Troop Committee meeting on January 9, 2023. I am excited about this natural alliance and partnership with the Scouts as they are focused on duty to country, leadership and character development of the boys. Recently I wrote an article and gave a speech on the topic of how the Boy Scout Aims are aligned with the 4 Pillars of the American Legion: National Defense, Youth/Children, Americanism and Veteran Affairs.



January 18, 2023, Meeting Minutes - Roddy Charlton

Commander Pete Meier opened the meeting with greetings to fifteen members and guests. The colors were pre-posted and **Adjutant Roddy Charlton** led the Pledge of Allegiance. **Sgt-At-Arms Mark Shillinger** conducted the POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony. **Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt** provided a prayer. The minutes of the December 2022 meeting were published in the Post Newsletter and the reading of the minutes was dispensed by the Post Commander and accepted as published.

Commander Pete Meier discussed attending a District 12 meeting with **Vice Commander Brenda Smull** this last week. Activities discussed were the annual District 12 Rehab Dinner and Auction to be held Saturday, February 12, 2023. The dinner is a major fund raiser for District 12 and will be held at American Legion Post 35, Chandler, AZ. The event begins at 5:00 pm with cocktails followed by dinner and a show performed by Lee Huff as Elton John. The evening will end with an auction. All members are asked to support this event. Tickets and additional information is available by contacting Jerry at 573-433-6908. Post 64 will donate auction items and will host a table. District 12 donated \$5,000.00 to Ashley's House.

Sgt-At-Arms Mark Shillinger provided an update about Post 64 Springfest Dinner and Dance. The event will be held Saturday March 4, 2023, in the ARC Main Hall. The doors open at 5:30 pm., A light dinner will be served at 6:00 pm followed by dancing with music provided by the "Cover-Ups" and a 50/50 raffle and auction. Tickets will be sold at the ARC for \$25.00 from February 13, 2023 through March 2, 2023. This is a major fund raiser for Post 64. All members are encouraged to attend.

Vice-Commander Brenda Smull discussed current activities to support the development of an American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) organization. Post member, spouse Darlene Hunter, will take the lead in the ALA organization. There are more than ten prospective members already. The ALA is open to spouses, mothers, sons, daughters and grandchildren of American War Veterans. A plan is being developed to create the new organization.

Commander Pete Meier discussed the upcoming Kiwanis Ahwatukee Easter Parade. The Post 64 Color Guard will again lead the 47th annual parade. Boy Scout Troop 174, sponsored by Post 64, will follow the Color Guard and carry Post Burial Flags. Sgt-At Arms Mark Shillinger put out a request to post members to join the Color Guard/Honor Guard to support this event and other events though out the year.

Adjutant Roddy Charlton discussed the urgent need to fill the vacant Post Service Officer position. See Adjutant report for more details.

Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt offered a closing prayer.

Refreshment Chairperson Alice Maynard provided refreshments. Thank You.



Sgt at Arms Report – Mark Shillinger

After a flurry of activity in November and December, January has been very quiet for Post 64 Color Guard, with no requests for service.

Behind the scenes, work is commencing on preparation for Springfest, planned for March 4th. Help has been gratefully received from Andy Wangstad (Tickets and flyers) and Ed Doney (Electronic bulletin board and a commitment to work the sound and light board on the night of Springfest)

I have a three-ring binder put together for Springfest ticket sales. We do need volunteers to help sell tickets from February 13th through March 3rd. Please contact me to schedule the dates and times. (520-433-0538 or markshillinger@hotmail.com)

We are also in need help on the day of Springfest, setting up, helping with food and drink, selling raffle tickets, cleaning up and other various tasks. Please contact me or Pete if you are able to be there and help!

Post 64 Color Guard has been requested to lead the Easter Parade again this year. (April 8, 2023) Requests for Color Guard participation will be going out soon. This is a great event that puts Post 64 front and center in our community. We will have a detail to carry burial flags, marching directly behind the Color Guard, as in years past. However, this year may be different, as we now sponsor Boy Scout troop 172, and while not finalized, may have Boy Scouts carrying the flags.

At the monthly general meeting, held on January 18, 2023, the Colors were pre-posted and the Pow/Mia ceremony was performed.

Post 64 is in need of additional Color Guard members. This is a very rewarding activity that honors our flag and Legion members. If you are interested, please contact me at markshillinger@hotmail.com



Adjutant – Roddy Charlton

Post Service Officer: Our Post is still looking for a Post Service Officer (PSO) to support critical Post veterans outreach activities. This position requires a dedicated person to support veterans and their dependents for outreach, coordination and assistance tasks including access and coordination for available services and assistance with benefits. This officer will access and utilize expert services through and be supported by professional staff of the American Legion and have a strong desire to serve veterans. Training is available for this officer position. If you have questions or are interested in supporting this critical position, please contact **Post Commander Pete Meier** : peterhmeier@gmail.com or myself at WRCinAZ@aol.com.

American Legion - Basic Training: The American Legion has completed an update to an online, self-paced basic training course. The course is 90-minutes and is broken down into modules: History and Organization, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children and Youth. An optional final exam is offered with a certificate and pin. This is a great online course to expand your knowledge of the American Legion. To take this course, go to mylegion.org or legion.org/basictraining.

Chaplain—Rebecca Schmidt

PRESIDENTS' MONTH PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, in this month of Presidents we give thanks for this great country and for the many freedoms afforded us under our flag. We are mindful of the many men and women who gave their all to preserve those freedoms. May their souls rest in peace. And for those suffering the ravages of wars in hospitals and homes, we ask a special blessing. And, Dear Lord, we reverently ask that "God Bless America." Amen.

VALENTINE'S DAY (February 14, 2023)

Lord, we thank you for all the Love we have blessed with throughout our lives. Love of our spouses and significant others, of our families and friends, of our grateful nation, and especially Your Love. Please continue to watch over all those wonderful people in our lives. Happy Valentine's Day!

FOUR CHAPLAINS SUNDAY (February 5, 2023)

The first Sunday in February is celebrated by the American Legion and other military organizations to recognize the bravery, selfless service, and interfaith cooperation of the four chaplains who helped evacuate the sailors and other military personnel after the United States Transport Dorchester was sunk by a German U-Boat (torpedo) on February 3, 1943. The ship sank with a loss of 672 of the 904 men on board. A brief history follows.

OTHER SPECIAL DATES

- February 1, National Freedom Day
- February 8, Boy Scouts of America Founded (1910)
- February 12, Lincoln's Birthday
- February 20, Washington's Birthday Observed and Presidents' Day
- February 21, Shrove Tuesday
- February 22, Ash Wednesday and Washington's Birthday

A SPECIAL THANKS

Last month a beautifully wrapped tin of cookies and a lovely card was dropped off at the ARC front desk. The card was addressed to "U.S. Veteran." The inside read "Thank you for your service to our country! Maria Schultheis and Family." And we thank You, Maria! If anyone knows Maria and how we can reach her, I would appreciate if you'd let me know.



Chapel of four Chaplains

THE FOUR CHAPLAINS
THE STORY AND THE CHAPEL
From the American Legion Chaplains Manual

Early on the morning of February 3, 1943, the U.S.A.T. (United States Army Transport) Dorchester was wallowing through icy seas off Greenland. Most of the 900 troops on board were asleep in their bunks. Suddenly a torpedo smashed into the Dorchester's flank. Frantically pounding up the ladders, the troops milled in confusion on the decks.

In those moments of panic, the coolest men aboard were four U.S. Army First Lieutenants Clark V. Poling (Reformed Church of America), Alexander D. Goode (Jewish), John P. Washington (Catholic), and George L. Fox (Methodist). The four chaplains led the men to boxes of life jackets, and passed them out to the soldiers with boat-drill precision. When the boxes were empty, the four chaplains slipped off their own precious life preservers, put them on four young GIs, and told them to jump.

The Dorchester went down 25 minutes later in a rumble of steam. Some 600 men were lost, but the heroic chaplains had helped save over 200. The last anyone saw of them, they were standing on the slanting deck, their arms linked in prayer to the one God they all served.

Far away in North Africa, Dr. Daniel A. Poling, distinguished American clergyman and father of Chaplain Clark Poling, was crouching in a fox hole when he learned of the heroic death of his son and fellow Chaplains. In his mind was born the idea of a shrine in the memory of this noble sacrifice, a shrine where people of all faiths could worship God in a spirit of unity without the need of uniformity.

In the heart of a great city, Philadelphia, PA, the Chapel opens its doors to people of all races and religious faiths. It is also a memorial to the Four Chaplains who went down on the U.S.A.T. Dorchester. It is an interfaith shrine. In it are three altars, one for each faith (Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant). Above the entrance burns an eternal light which calls men and women to the unity these four Chaplains so heroically demonstrated. Chiseled deep into the stone is this dedication:

Chapel of Four Chaplains
An Interfaith Shrine
Here is Sanctuary for Brotherhood
Let it never be violated





American Legion Post 64 presents

Springfest

Saturday, March 4th 2023, in the Main Hall
530 pm-930 pm -ARC members and Guests

Doors open at 530, light dinner at 600pm

Dance music from 630-930pm-

Featuring The Coverups!

BYOB-50/50 raffle

Ticket sales February 13 thru March 2nd

\$ 25.00/ per person- cash or check

Mon, Wed, Sat-9 to 11 AM Fridays 430to 630 PM

No tickets sold on Springfest day or at door



Information Officer—Brenda Smull

Attention US Military Veterans!

**The PACT Act:
Expanded Medical benefits for eligible Veterans**

A newly passed law called the **PACT Act** can help many veterans who are suffering from medical illnesses.

The PACT Act is one of the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our

Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

It provides enhanced healthcare eligibility for veterans, especially those exposed to burn pits (Kuwait, Iraq and Saudi Arabia), Agent Orange and other toxic substances.

Presumptive Condition

The biggest change is that the PACT Act adds to the list of health conditions that the VA assumes (or “presume”) are caused by exposure to these substances.

These include 23 new presumptive medical conditions including:

- Brain cancer
- Kidney cancer
- Pancreatic cancer
- Asthma
- Melanoma
- Chronic sinusitis
- Emphysema

If you haven't filed a claim yet for the presumptive condition, you can file a new claim online now. You can also file by mail, in person, or with the help of a trained professional.

As a result of this new law, the VA must now give any veteran in VA Healthcare a **toxic exposure screening**.

Toxic exposure screenings are available at VA health facilities across the country.

Veterans who are not enrolled and who meet eligibility requirements will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.

The screening will ask you if you think you were exposed to any of these hazards while serving:

- Open burn pits and other airborne hazards
- Gulf War-related exposures
- Agent Orange
- Radiation
- Camp Lejeune contaminated water exposure
- Other exposures

If you have any questions about your eligibility for the PACT Act or need assistance applying, contact My VA 411 at 800-698-2411 or go online at this [website](https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits):

<https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits>

February 2023

American Legion Post 64



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 	6	7	8 Slappy Birthday  Executive Meeting ARC 4:00 pm	9	10	11
12	13	14 	15 General Meeting ARC Main Hall 4:00 pm	16	17	18
19	20 	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28			Mark Your Calendars SPRINGFEST Saturday, March 4, 2023	

Post 64 Contact Information

Commander	Pete Meier	602-690-3361	petehmeier@gmail.com
First Vice Commander	Brenda Smull	303-301-4429	bsmull@me.com
Post Adjutant	Roddy Charlton		wrcinaz@aol.com
Finance Officer	Jay Hendrix	480-831-9121	jayhendrix@cox.net
Post Chaplain	Rebecca Schmidt	602-292-8401	rebeccacinaz@aol.com
Sergeant-At-Arms	Mark Shillinger		markshillinger@hotmail.com





Taken from the
January 25, 2023,
Ahwatukee Foothills News

Ahwatukee Legion Post 64 develops ties with Scout troop

AFN NEWS STAFF

Ahwatukee American Legion Post 64 is now the charter organization for Boy Scout Troop 172 in Tempe.

And as a representative for the charter organization, Brenda Smull in some ways is returning to her roots of a lifetime of public service.

Though she admits "I knew nothing about" Boy Scout leadership, Smull was "a proud Brownie and Girl Scout."

While she also demurs that was "over 45 years ago," Smull, an author and Toastmasters International leader, also served her country as a platoon leader in Operation Desert Storm after earn-

ing a degree in biochemistry in college, where she served in ROTC.

How she became a Boy Scout Charter Organization representative "was sheer serendipity," Smull said.

She was at her office working when coworker Jason Mork poked his head in and asked, "Are you in the American Legion?" she recalled.

He went on to explain that while searching online for local American Legion Posts, he discovered her photographer-husband Steve Smull's photos of veterans. Then he told her that his Boy Scout troop was looking to partner with a veterans group that would

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sponsor it as a charter organization.

"Jason and I started the dialogue on how our teams could work together to support each other's missions, values and goals," said Smull, adding as she worked with the troop to establish an organizational relationship," she said. "I received a great deal of support from leaders at the Arizona Department of the American Legion as well as the Grand Canyon Council BSA."

"As I started digging in and reading more about the history of the American Legion and its support of Boy Scouts, I was thrilled to see the alliance goes back to the Legion's first national convention in 1919," Smull added.

Today, Legion posts sponsor more than 2,500 Scouting units across the country and 35 troops in Arizona have charter organization representatives in American Legion posts.

The Legion works closely with Boy Scouts for its Boys State and Boys Nation programs, which promote citizenship and leadership, and honors the Eagle Scout of the Year during its na-

tional convention with \$10,000 scholarship while three runners-up each get \$2,500.

"The biggest aha moment for me," Smull said, "was the realization of just how many values and goals are common between the American Legion and the Boy Scouts America. It struck me that the 4 Pillars of the Legion align to the aims of the BSA."

She noted that the Legion's pillars of National Defense, Youth, Americanism, Veteran Affairs "are strongly and clearly in line with the vision and aims of the Boy Scouts" and believes, "Both of our organizations can benefit from each other in symbiotic ways for the benefit of our country, our communities, our youth and our veterans."

Smull said Post 64's Color Guard team "is also looking forward to working with the scouts on flag ceremonies and events."

"There are so many things that excite and motivate me about this new charter and endeavor and I encourage you to learn more about these outstanding programs by going to legion.org/scouting/about and scouting.org," Smull added. ■