



AHWATUKEE AMERICAN LEGION POST 64

July 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 !**



First Vice Commander – Brenda Smull

Our June Member Meeting was a lively and delicious event. The Auxiliary team led the way and coordinated a potluck dinner with the most amazing meatloaf and mashed potatoes. A big thank you to all the Post and Auxiliary members who contributed food and drink.

We also installed new Post Officers for the 2023-24 year. Commander Pete Meier led this ceremony and asked Al Hunter (First Vice Commander), Jay Hendrix (Treasurer) and me to raise our right hands and pledge to “perform faithfully and impartially the duties of the office in The American Legion I am about to assume, and I further pledge I am not a member of, and do not subscribe to the principles of, any group opposed to our form of government”. I am humbled and honored to be your new Commander.

Installation of the remaining officers, Craig Annis, Roddy Charlton, Rebecca Schmidt and Mark Shillinger will be conducted in our next Membership meeting on September 20, 2023.

Passing the Torch

I joined Ahwatukee Post 64 in 2018 and I watched Commander Ed Mangan (may he rest in peace) pass the torch to Pete Meier. Now Pete is handing the baton to me and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank him for his strong and steady leadership during the past five years. He kept our post alive during the challenging COVID years and never gave up on his duties. His selfless service and dedication to the strong traditions and values of the American Legion motivated and inspired me to step up and contribute more. Pete could always be counted on to help his fellow veterans and the local community. He also supports the students in our designated schools and countless color guard and flag ceremonies. We are lucky to have him as our Second Vice Commander this coming year.

The **focus of our Post is strong and simple: Veterans helping Veterans.** Through *service & support, honor & remembrance, and connection in our community*, we will recognize and assist those who served our country.

We will continue to support the four pillars of the American Legion- **Youth, National Defense, Americanism and Veterans Affairs**- with continued traditions and events as well as some new programs to engage and support more veterans and their families. The officers will meet over the summer to map out our goals and objectives to retain, engage, and expand our membership ranks while increasing the number of younger veterans.

On Saturday June 24, Darlene Hunter (Auxiliary Unit 64 President), Al Hunter and I will be heading to Tucson to attend the Arizona Department American Legion annual convention. I will be ready to take photos of Darlene as she receives the formal Charter of our new Auxiliary Unit. With over 20 members and growing, we are blessed to have this amazing group of people to help advocate for veterans and their families.

Upcoming Events:

4th of July Fundraiser for Support the Troops- 5pm at the ARC.

Auxiliary Unit 64 Charter Party- TBD

September 20- Membership meeting and 2nd Officer Installation

October 14- Oktoberfest dinner and dance- Annual fundraiser. Need help to find and book a band.

Please contact me at bsmull@me.com if you have any questions or suggestions about our post.

Adjutant – Roddy Charlton

Installation of Post Officers

Having completed the Post 64 Officers election, during the first fall meeting the Post Adjutant normally installs all Post Officers. As part of the swearing in ceremony, each Officer states "I do solemnly pledge myself, to preform faithfully and impartially, the duties of the office in the American Legion, I am about to assume." It is the responsibility of each elected Post Officer to know, understand and execute their specific Post duties and responsibilities. The successful accomplishment of Post programs and activities depends on their performance to the duties of each office. As Post members your duty is to aid them in every way, and to help them keep the American Legion faithful to its principles and ideals.



Chaplain—Rebecca Schmidt

INDEPENDENCE DAY (HAPPY 4th of JULY!!)

On this, our country's birthday, we turn to You, O God, in gratitude and thanksgiving, for making us a free and independent nation. We thank You for freeing us from an autocratic government, for making self-government possible, with liberty and just for all. We confess that we are unworthy of all your mercies, and ask You to pardon our sins and lead us in the way of righteousness. Help us to keep in mind the ideals for which we offered our lives in war, and also our obligations to our community, our state, and our nation. Protect our country from subversive elements which would destroy our government and deprive us of our freedom, and from selfish elements which would weaken us. Ward off all foes which threaten us from without and from within. Help us always to remember that America owes her very life to You and that her future rests in Your counsel. We dedicate and consecrate ourselves anew to the preservation of our country and our way of life, and ask Your blessings upon us. Amen.

OTHER SPECIAL DATES IN JULY

July 2 -- U.S. Army Air Corps Established (1926)

July 27 -- Korean War Ended (1953)

July 28 -- World War I Began (1914)

SEMPER SUPRA (ALWAYS ABOVE), SPACE FORCE HYMN

At the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona, on Memorial Day, the Space Force Hymn was included. It was played with gusto, as was the other Service Branch Songs, by the 108th Army National Guard Band. This was my first time to hear it:

We're the mighty watchful eye, Guardians beyond the blue,
The invisible front line, Warfighters brave and true.
Boldly reaching into space, there's no limit to our sky.
Standing guard both night and day, We're the Space Force from on high.





American Legion Auxiliary Unit 64 Ahwatukee

PRESIDENT – Darlene Hunter

We're nearing the end of the club set-up requirements. Our Constitution, By-Laws & Standing Rules has been approved by State after some minor alterations and reconfiguration. We've been notified by National that our 501©19 IRS determination has been submitted to the IRS and should be approved between July 4 – 18. I'll monitor this situation, download the determination letter and distribute it to the Executive Committee once it's received.

Our June meeting was cancelled in favor of an email briefing, so that we could concentrate on setting up (and enjoying) the joint Potluck Dinner with the Post. The food was delicious and plentiful. Our thanks to all who contributed to the event...and especially to Rod Greene, who graced us with a second gifting of \$100 to help the Auxiliary!

I attended the 2023 Annual Department Convention on Saturday, June 24th, at the El Conquistador Resort in Oro Valley. The day consisted primarily of elections and various awards. Part of the agenda dealt with New Units, of which there were two (and 1 was Ahwatukee)! We received our fully endorsed, commemorative Charter and Charter Membership Roll, which will be framed and on display at our next meeting in September. Because we're considered a "baby" in the organization, we were given a "baby" doll to nurture and care for – just as we'll do for our Unit.

No meetings will occur during July and August, as this is the summer vacation period. Our next meeting will be held on September 20th in the ARC meeting room at 3 PM. Everyone have a good summer and come back invigorated as we will be planning our fall activities.



All in the spirit of service, not self...



July 2023

American Legion Post 64



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Post Officers

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|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Commander | Brenda Smull | 303-301-4429 | bsmull@me.com |
| First Vice Commander | Al Hunter | 480-326-4656 | alhunter50@yahoo.com |
| Second Vice commander | Pete Meier | 602-690-3361 | petehmeier@gmail.com |
| Adjutant | Roddy Charlton | 480-993-6980 | wrcinaz@aol.com |
| Finance Officer | Jay Hendrix | 480-831-9121 | jayhendrix@cox.net |
| Chaplain | Rebecca Schmidt | 602-292-8401 | rebeccacinaz@aol.com |
| Service Officer | Craig Annis | 480-255-5622 | cragannis@yahoo.com |
| Sergeant-At-Arms | Mark Shillinger | | markshillinger@hotmail.com |