



AHWATUKEE AMERICAN LEGION POST 64

November 2023

<http://www.americanlegionpost64.com>

Commander—Brenda Smull

A big thank you to all the Post and Auxiliary volunteers who helped make our Autumn Fest event a big success. We raised over \$1,800 to help support veterans and their families in our local community. In a very short amount of time, our team rallied and made it happen while expertly adapting to changes. In addition to the great live music performed by *Foster the Sound*, one of the many highlights of the evening was the Silent Auction and Raffle Prize table. A special thanks to Rebecca, Roddy, Pete, Craig, Bill, David, Darlene and Al for contributing items or getting businesses to donate gifts to the cause. I also wish to recognize and appreciate the work that Judy did with the raffle ticket sales table. Mark and Pete led the way with the ticket sales at the ARC and we had a decent turnout of roughly 95 people. Thank you to Ed for creating and printing the event tickets. The decorations were bright and festive thanks to the many volunteers in the Auxiliary including Bev and Darlene. The food was well organized and the cupcakes were delicious.

As we look to the month of November and Veterans Day, we continue to focus on the needs of our members and will be implementing new and simple programs to connect with each and provide relevant education and awareness sessions. We will be exploring different meeting locations for our Veteran Social Mixers in the goal to expand our recruiting effort to more veterans in the Ahwatukee area.

I am encouraged by the recent turn out at our monthly member meetings, increased engagement and the transfer in of new and motivated members like Larry, Harry, and Jay.

Our organization continues to expand our presence in the community with activities at the Chamber of Commerce and the upcoming Ahwatukee Veteran Car Show on Nov. 11th thanks to the efforts of Craig. Our Post website and Facebook page is constantly adding and sharing quality photos and information. The Post website, www.americanlegionpost64.com, is in the process of getting a facelift thanks to the work of our Post Information Officer, David.

As autumn turns to winter, let us look to come together in warm and welcoming ways to provide positive social support and camaraderie during these increasingly challenging times in the nation and world.



10/18/2023 Meeting Minutes — Roddy Charlton

Commander Brenda Smull opened the meeting to twenty six members and guests. **Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt** provided an invocation and included the one year anniversary of the new American Legion Auxiliary Unit 64. **Sgt-At-Arms Mark Shillinger** conducted the POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony. **Commander Brenda Smull** led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance. The American Legion Preamble to the Constitution was recited. We welcomed three new transfer members into Post 64: Larry Brown-Navy, Jay Roberson-Navy and Harry Coder-Air Force. **Adjutant Roddy Charlton** conducted a Roll Call of Officers and all were present. **Commander Brenda Smull** asked to dispense with the reading of the minutes, as posted in the newsletter. A request for corrections or changes was made, and none were made. A vote to accept as printed was made and second to approve the September Meeting Minutes as published.

Officer Reports: **Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt** discussed the Autumn Fest Silent Auction, raffle and 50/50 drawing and her appreciation of Post members to make this fundraiser a success. (see Chaplain Report.) **Finance Officer Jay Hendrix** discussed a check of \$150 to Support The Troops. He was out of town last week and did not get the final totals of last weekend Autumn Fest. He asked for any receipts for the event, that are reimbursable, be provided to him. The current Post balance is \$8,336. **First Vice Commander Al Hunter** provided an update to Post membership, current at 43% membership renewal. He discussed the disparity of the current on-line roster of 207 members and actual members of 137. A clean up of the on-line roster will be conducted to reflect our current Post membership. **Second Vice Commander Pete Meier** reported on the success of the Autumn Fest with ninety-nine guests attending. He discussed that all receipts of expenditures need to be submitted to **Finance Officer Jay Hendrix** and thanked **Sgt-at-Arms Mark Shillinger** for his leadership in pulling the event together. **Adjutant Roddy Charlton** welcomed the new members and will complete a Member Data Form and transfer them into our post. He discussed the current Post documents that provide guidance for the distribution and reimbursement of funds. These are all covered in the Post 64 By-Laws that were reviewed and signed of in 2019. Within the next year we will review all Post documents for updates and changes. (see Adjutant report for details)

Service Officer Craig Annis discussed the review of the on-line Post roster and will use this to complete a Buddy Check on all listed. Arizona department has information on Buddy Check, like a welfare check. For more information go to WWW.AZLEGION.ORG. His goal is to contact five to ten members by phone each day. His plan is to complete this critical outreach in the next six weeks. He is available day or night to provide support, (craigannis@ymail.com). **Information Officer David Green** discussed updates to Post website with Autumn Fest pictures. He also discussed the next Veterans Social to be held at the ARC on October 29th and that K95 masks and Inferred thermometers are still available.

New Business: Any requests for funds? None. **Old Business:?** None. **For the Good of the Legion:** **First Vice Commander Al Hunter** discussed that he and **American Legion Auxiliary** is like our Post with veterans outreach programs. He has asked this organization to make a presentation at our Post and look for possible teaming projects for both organizations. He also discussed the development of a Check List for new projects/programs, how to establish a committee and a leader to develop a plan and present the Executive Board for approval and funding. He will use this new check list/process to review the American Legion Auxiliary Celebration. **Service Officer Craig Annis** requested clarification of how the Post 64 and ALA Unit 64 interface. **Al Hunter** provided clarification that The American Legion and the Auxiliary are two standalone organizations that support each other.

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September 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes continued

A question was submitted inquiring on how Post activities are approved, funded and reimbursed. **Adjutant Roddy Charlton** provided current information from the Post By-Law. (see Adjutant Report.) We will update and revise all post documents within the year. A review of all upcoming events was completed and will be published, including our Boy Scout Troop conduction a Flag Day Celebration to be held November 30th the Desert Breeze Park in Chandler at 7PM. We are all encouraged to attend this event.

Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt conducted the raffle of four items.

Refreshments were provided by **Second Vic Commander Pete Meier** and **Information Officer David Green**. Thank you!!!



First Vice Commander—Al Hunter

No organization can exist without members. Most organizations such as businesses and governments can attract members via salary and fringe benefits. Not so with volunteer organizations such as Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis, and American Legion aren't so fortunate. There was a time when social need was a magnet. Over the past decades that need has become lessened. The many studies focusing on the state of volunteer organizations show that about 1968, membership has been in a steady decline while the desire to volunteer has been on the increase. The key cause is the change in social dynamics. That requires a completely dedicated chapter to explain. Today the way to attract members is to provide a compelling cause that entices them to be willing to devote a portion of their free time to serve.

But membership numbers do not alone articulate today's challenges facing volunteer service organizations. For a service organization to succeed in its goals and objectives requires members to actively participate not only in its service activities but also in its leadership. Today, those numbers are also in decline requiring more of its obligations to rest of fewer of its members to carry more of the load. Burnout is unfortunately a growing occurrence resulting in a downward spiral of both leadership and activity support and the ultimate collapse of the organization.

Today, this scenario is become too common which includes the American Legion. Post 64 is not immune. Today we have approximately 170 active members. Of this number, 71% are aged 70 and above with 20% above the age of 80. Natural aging issues will negatively impact the ability to participate. That is just the fact of life.

Post 64, along with our new Auxiliary has sharpen our focus to increase our help for more of our veterans, thus the new slogan "Veterans Helping Veterans." This includes aiding our aging members. Performing this vital mission cannot be successful without the help of our members. Our membership mission is 2-fold, engagement of our existing membership and attracting new members. The need for our Vets and their families is growing. We have a vital mission to accomplish but we need your help to achieve it.

Adjutant—Roddy Charlton

Post Finance / Reimbursement

There have been questions about the Post procedures for expenditures and reimbursement. In review of Post 64 Documents, the By-Laws provide the following guidance. Receipts are required for all reimbursements. If you have any questions, please contact me or Post Finance Officer.

1. Article 6 Section 1: " Post Commander shall approve all orders directing the distribution of funds."
- 2 . Article 6 Section 4: " The Finance Officer shall pay by check all expenses approved by the Executive Committee or Post Body."
3. Article 7 Section 5: "The Executive Committee shall have the authority to approve and pass the expenditures of all monies up to and including \$100."

American Legion - Basic Training

The American Legion has updated the online, self-paced basic training course. The course outlines American Legion history, values and programs. This is a 90-minute course broken down into six modules: History and Organization, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children and Youth. An optional final exam is offered with a certificate and a pin available. This online course will expand your knowledge of the American Legion. I would encourage all Post members to take this course. To take the course, go to **AmericanLegion.org/basictraining** or visit **mylegion.org**.



Post Information/Webmaster—David Green

We are off to a great start for the year with Autumn Fest Fundraiser, let's keep that momentum going! Please go the Post's website @ www.americanlegionpost64.com to see the pictures from Autumn Fest fundraiser and more. My contact information is (928) 830-0085. Email is David.a.greenjr@gmail.com, you have any questions our suggestions for our website.

Events Being Attended by Post 64 with informational booth:

11/4- ARC Open House @ Ahwatukee Recreational Center from 9AM-2PM

11/11- (Veterans Day) Ahwatukee Veteran's Car Show @ 4700 Warner Rd. form 9AM-1PM

11/18- Art and Crafts Fair @ The ARC from 9AM-2PM

POST EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER:

Our first being on **11/15** for our **Monthly Membership Meeting** at **4PM** and is held at the **ARC**. The meeting is open to all veterans and the public community members. Where the post will cover any new information on upcoming events and totals from the Autumn Fest fundraiser to be used for this year's focus Veterans helping Veterans.

The post will be holding a **Veteran Social Mixer** on n **11/29** starting at **4PM** and will be being held at **Native Grill & Wings**, located at **5030 E Ray Rd**. We invite you and a guest, or 3, to join us for the exciting event. Come to meet and speak with veterans from 3 different generations all from within the Ahwatukee Community! This being our second Social Mixer, I hope to see new faces and meet additional veterans and community members there. We also invite you, a guest, and any others to join us for excitement and refreshments.

Sgt-At-Arms—Mark Shillinger

At the October 18th monthly general meeting, the colors were pre-posted and the Pow-Mia ceremony was performed.

We had three new members attend this meeting: Larry Brown, Navy Vet. Jay Roberson, Navy Vet. And Harry Coder, Air Force Vet. Welcome gentlemen!

On October 14th, the Autumn Fest fundraiser was held. The Color Guard presented the colors at this event. (Thank you, Brenda Smull, Pete Meier, Roddy Charlton and Dan Chong - great job!) By all accounts, the fund raiser was a success and enjoyed by many. Thank you to all that helped set up, run the raffles, clean up, handle the food and drinks, and handle the numerous tasks that made it a success!

We added a new member to the Color Guard this month. Ron Raucci, an Army vet. Welcome Ron and thank you!

There are numerous events planned for November,

November 4th, The ARC Open House, we will have a table set up to pass along information about the Legion and Post 64.

November 11th, Veterans Day, we will have the POW-MIA table set up in the common area, to honor and remember all of our missing veterans. We will also have a table display set up at the Vets car show, held at the Ahwatukee community center.

November 18th, we will have a table set up (as above) at the Arts and Crafts fair, held at the ARC, from 9am-2pm.

November 29th, there will be a veteran's social event, at 5pm, held at the Native Grill on Ray Rd.

November 30th, we will be joining Boy Scout Troop 172, (who we sponsor) at Desert Breeze Park, 7pm, to conduct a flag retirement ceremony.

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



Service Officer—Craig Annis

I followed up on issue a member had regarding his DD214.

Early in November there will be day long Service Officer training at the American Legion Conference in Tucson. I am hoping to take advantage of this training session to learning more about this position.

Post members, feel free to contact me with any concerns, or issues, you might need assistance with.

Chaplain—Rebecca Schmidt

A PRAYER FOR OUR VETERANS (Veterans Day, Saturday, 11/11)

Oh God, our Heavenly Father, You have blessed us with brave men and women who are willing to defend our freedom. May Your protection and grace surround them each day. Let Your healing hand be upon those who suffer wounds and injuries.

May those who have made the ultimate sacrifice rest forever in Your Holy Presence. Comfort the families who mourn and are left to remember the precious lives of their loved ones. Help us to honor and support them. Let us ever be mindful of each sacrifice made on behalf of the American people by our sons, daughters, husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, and friends. Amen.

SPECIAL DATES IN NOVEMBER

Nov 10 -- U.S. Marine Corps Established (1775), Veterans Day (observed)

Nov 11 -- Veterans Day (Signing of WWI Armistice 1918)

Nov 21 -- Grenada Campaign Ended (1983)

Nov 23 -- HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!

FALL FESTIVAL (October 14, 2023) RAFFLE, SILENT AUCTION, and 50/50

Many thanks to ALL who made this a success! First, thank-you JUDY STEFFEN (and her "volunteers") for selling those raffle and 50/50 tickets. Judy deserves Combat Pay!

Thank-you Auxiliary President DARLENE HUNTER for obtaining gift cards/discount cards/gift items from: Brunch Snob, Over Easy, and the Henhouse Cafe.

Thank-you Service Officer CRAIG ANNIS for obtaining "golf packages for four" from The Lakes and The Duke. And for assuming command of our Silent Auction table!

Muchas Gracias to Information Officer DAVID GREEN for donating a Semper Fi backpack and water bottle and to Jewelry Artist BILL MUSIK for sharing 2 beautiful silver necklaces.

Vielen, vielen Dank to Second Vice Commander PETE MEIER for obtaining gift cards/discount cards/gift items from: Philly's, Bonfire Bar & Grill, CK's Bar & Grill, Trader Joe's, Texas Roadhouse, and Biscuits. Thru Pete's many contacts, Pete also contributed 5 Collector Beer Steins, 15 German Beer Mugs, and a framed golf classic! AND, PETE WAS THE WINNER OF OUR 50/50, AND HE DONATED THAT BACK TO THE POST!!!!

And thank-you to everyone else who helped! So please support all of our most generous businesses! And the Thank-you Notes are done! Amen!!

Dear Lord, with all that is happening in the World, please watch over and guide us. Please guide our elected officials. Please keep safe our military. Please give us strength. Please let there be Peace and Justice. In Your Name we pray, Amen!





PRESIDENT – Darlene Hunter

Hello, ALAers! First of all, I wish to thank those Auxiliary members who assisted the Post last Saturday on their Autumn Fest fundraiser: Bev Shillinger, Judy Steffen, Barb LeChaix, Barbara Augustyn and myself. It was festive and thoroughly enjoyable.

Our next event is the ARC Open House on November 4th. We'll have a large table with a personalized, colorful vinyl banner on front and "Auxiliary At-A-Glance" pamphlets, Auxiliary monthly magazines, poppies and a donation jar, Membership forms, a Membership Eligibility Explanation sheet and free cookies (compliments of Christy Hendrix – Oatmeal cookies, Barbara Augustyn – Sugar cookies, Sheila Louchery – Peanut Butter cookies, and Darlene Hunter – Chocolate Chip cookies). Ask your friends and neighbors who plan to attend to stop by and say hello! New members are always welcome.

As a reminder – dues are payable on or before our meeting of November 15th. We've assigned an early cut-off point in order to catch any stragglers before we hit critical mass on its mail dispatch date.

One last item needs to be determined: how we celebrate/observe Christmas. As a party? ... gift-giving to others? ... to vets? More to come on this topic.








I intend to devote the majority of my time from now till the end of the year on an evaluation panel for Bingo as a joint fundraiser for the Post and Auxiliary. There's a multitude of angles which need to be thoroughly examined before we commit ourselves to this endeavor. The first action needed is to assemble a joint committee and assign a leader so we can begin fact-finding NLT mid-November and continue to fruition by the end of this year. Hopefully, we'll have something special to celebration New Years Eve with!



November 2023

American Legion Post 64



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 
5 			8 Executive Meeting ARC 4:00 pm	9	10 	11 
			15 General Meeting ARC Main Hall 4:00 pm	16	17	18 
19	20	21	22	23 	24	25
26	27	28	29 Veteran's Social 	30		

Post Officers

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@ymail.com
Sergeant-At-Arms	Mark Shillinger		markshillinger@hotmail.com
Information Officer	David Green	928-830-0085	david.a.greenjr@gmail.com