



AHWATUKEE AMERICAN LEGION POST 64

March 2024

<http://www.americanlegionpost64.com>

Commander—Brenda Smull

Our 2024 SpringFest event was a successful and positive event with great food, music and raffle prize fun. It was wonderful to see everyone from the veteran and ARC communities come together for an important cause- raising funds to help those in need. I wish to extend a huge **THANK YOU** to all of the volunteers from our Post, Auxiliary and Support the Troops. Our gold sponsor, Semper Fi Heating and Cooling, is also providing free check-up services to anyone who attended the event.

Post 64 received an award at the March District 12 meeting for achieving 110% of our membership goal and we continue to attract and gain new members. Kudos to our post officers who are helping to recruit and process these veterans into our ranks.

Our April 17th Monthly meeting will be an important one and I highly encourage everyone to attend at 4PM at the ARC. Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt will be leading the annual Honor and Remembrance service which pays tribute to the Auxiliary and Post members who passed away this past year. In addition, Adjutant Roddy Charlton will lead the Post Officer Nomination process in preparation for our elections in May. These positions were detailed in my report in the March newsletter.

In the spirit of veterans helping veterans, our post will be selecting recipients (individual or non-profit veteran service organizations) to donate funds to in the May/June timeframe. If you have a nomination for an in-need veteran or worthy cause, please email me directly at bsmull@me.com.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting or event.



03/13/2024 Meeting Minutes — Roddy Charlton

Commander Brenda Smull opened the meeting to 23 members and guests. **Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt** provided an Invocation. **Sgt-At Arms Mark Shillinger** conducted the POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony. **Commander Brenda Smull** led the Pledge of Allegiance and recited the American Legion Preamble to the Constriction. **Commander Brenda Smull** asked to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the 2/21/2024 Post meeting as posted in the newsletter. A motion was made to accept as printed and seconded, to approve the February Meeting Minutes as published. A special welcome was made to Jewish War Veterans Post 619 members who have joined Post 64.

Officer Reports: First Vice Commander Al Hunter provided updates to Post membership at 148. He attended the District 12 meeting and Post 64 received two awards for membership (for 100% membership for years 2020 and 2024). The Post also received an award for the highest retention of members at 90%. The Auxiliary Unit 64 received a second place membership award, missing first place by 1%. Congratulations to both organizations. He discussed the District 12 Poppy Fund of \$20,000 and requesting input for distribution. **Service Officer Craig Annis** discussed the 2nd round of Post Buddy Checks completion. He discussed changing the frequency of calls from every two months to once a quarter. He is requesting additional Post and Auxiliary members for support. He thanked the support team of Rebecca Schmidt and Don Gerhard. He recited "Be The North Star" as motivation to assist others. **Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt** discussed Sick Call. On our Prayer List are James Woods (in assisted living), Joe Hendrix (Jay's younger brother), Don Cieri, Bob Gill, and Ann Schminke. Finance Officer Jay Hendrix was not present. **Commander Brenda Smull** provided preliminary information of the SpringFest netting \$3,500, of which \$1,200 will be provided to the Auxiliary. Current Post balance is \$8,000 in checking and \$7,000 in savings. Post Officers will start the process of the distribution of funds.

Adjutant Roddy Charlton discussed the Post Officer 2023 - 2024 election process and open positions for Post Commander, First Vice Commander and Sgt-At -Arms (see Adjutant report). Any Post members interested in filling these critical leadership positions or have questions, please contact Roddy. He discussed the member transfer process and the utilization of the Member Data Form (MDF) that is completed/reviewed and signed by the Post Adjutant and then sent to National Headquarters. In the past three months some 15 MDFs have been completed and sent to American Legion National for processing. There are currently three that have some issues for transfer completion. He is working with National to resolve issues.

Sgt-At-Arms Mark Shillinger discussed the Color Guard support for the SpringFest. He discussed the Color Guard leading the 47th Annual Kiwanis Ahwatukee Easter Parade. Boy Scout Troupe #172 will follow the Color Guard carrying burial flags. **Finance Officer Jay Hendrix** will coordinate and lead the Boy Scouts as Detail Commander. The parade starts at 10 AM, Saturday 3/30/2024, at Warner Rd and 48th St. At the completion of the parade, the Post and Auxiliary will host hot dogs and sodas on the ARC patio.

Mark also discussed progress on a plan to bring Bingo to the ARC as a fundraiser for the Post and Unit. A meeting was held at Post 91 in Chandler with Tim Harvey this last week to review their Bingo games and lessons learned. They have three Bingo games a week and clear \$500 to \$700 per game. Post members Mark Shillinger, Al Hunter, Darlene Hunter (Auxiliary President), and Roddy Charlton were in attendance. Additional investigation is in works to determine the viability of our Post/Auxiliary on implementing Bingo into fundraising activities.

(Continued on the next page)

03/13/2024 Meeting Minutes Continued

Second Vice Commander Pete Meier discussed the Post quarterly street cleanup scheduled for 4/20/2024. Volunteers will meet at the Safeway parking lot, Elliot and 48th Street, at 8:00 AM. All required equipment will be provided including reflective vests, trash bags, pickers and most importantly, doughnuts. Pete also discussed the annual support to Memorial Day Color Guard marching at the National Memorial Cemetery Arizona starting at 8:00AM.

Post Information Officer David Green discussed the rollout of a new and improved Post website. Same as current website address is used with .org replacing .com. This year this appointed position will be changed in title to **Post Public Information Officer (PIO)** as responsibilities have expanded.

Unfinished Business: The planning for the Fall Fest dinner and dance has started for October at the ARC

New Business: The process/selection of Post fund distributions will start in the next weeks (US Vets/PVA/and others). Post will vote on fund distributions. Local restaurant Over Easy has volunteered to provide licensed food servers for future events.

Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt provided a closing prayer. Meeting was adjourned, and refreshments were provided by Bev Shillinger.



First Vice Commander—Al Hunter

Current active membership stands at 148 paid through the end of 2024. We have exceeded our goals by 10% and received an achievement award from the District. But, except for strictly social organizations, the true strength and health of a community service group is in the number of members who actively participate in the organization's function, mainly its mission goals. Active participation includes service and fund-raising activities and leadership positions. No matter how aggressively the organization wants to serve its community, it is the number of participating members who determine its ability to meet its mission goals. An organization having 100 members but only 20 actually participate is at high risk of dissolving because they will eventually burn out. I personally know of one club, not American Legion, with 125 members that are facing extinction. This is a club that provides vital services to its community.

Post 64 was facing such a future. Fortunately, we were able to start turning this around with the addition of new and transfer members, the addition of a new Auxiliary unit and the addition of more social events to pull folks together. But we still have a way to go. It is important to remind ourselves of our mission, "Veterans Helping Veterans." Although there are organizations such as the VA, Wounded Warriors Project, DAV, US Vets Initiative, there are many that still fall through the cracks. Here is much to do but we need more member support.

Post Information/Webmaster—David Green

Next month is another event filled month. We end the month of March with the Easter Day Parade on the 04/30/2024. The Executive Committee meeting will be held on 04/10/24 at the ARC 4:00 pm-5:00 pm. The following week, at the 04/17/2024 General Meeting, we will be holding our elections. Currently the Post needs to fill the following positions Commander, 1st Vice Commander, and Sgt-of-Arms. The remaining positions are still available but have the current members willing to return for 2024-2025 year. The Post is thankful for all the work that everyone provides for this year, with that being said, the year is still not over. On 04/20/24 we have our quarterly Adopt-a-Street clean up. We will be needing members to volunteer in assisting Peter Meier with the upcoming street cleanup meeting at the Safeway parking lot on 48th St and Elliot Rd., time will be announced. We are also looking to have the .COM and .ORG websites taking you to the new website by May. Wow, what an amazing month we have planned and hope to hold a few more social mixers before the start of the 2024-2025 year.



Finance Officer – Jay Hendrix

Our Post 64 had a very successful SpringFest on March 9, 2024 with 131 guests attending the event. The food catered by RigaTonys was so good and all enjoyed the band dancing the evening away. I want to take a moment to thank all the Post Members and the Auxiliary Post 64 for stepping up when ask to do something that made the event so good!!

This event allows us to continue to helping support any Veteran in need. (VETS HELPING VETS)

Adjutant—Roddy Charlton

Post Officer Elections 2024-2025

We are starting the Post Officer election process for 2024-2025. The Adjutant will conduct the election per Post 64 By-Laws and American Legion Officers Guide. Post Commander Brenda Smull published the eight elected Post Officers roles and responsibilities in the March 2024 Newsletter and a request for nominations. We have three current Post Officers who will not hold office in the 2024-2025 year and their positions will need to be filled: Post Commander, First Vice Commander (Membership Chairman) and Sgt-at-Arms. If you have questions about any Post Officer position or would like to be in the election process, please contact me.

Post By-Laws Article V (excerpts):

Section 1. Nominations for Post Officers shall be from the floor at the regular meeting in the month of April. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the regular meeting in the month of May, and elections will be held at such meeting.

Section 2. All Officers shall be installed at the regular meeting in the month of June.

Section 3. Any vacancy in an office shall be filled by the Executive Committee, subject to the approval of the Post, and persons so appointed shall serve until the next regular election.

Section 4. Prior to installation all prospective officers must verify eligibility for membership in the American Legion.



Service Officer—Craig Annis

We have the completed Post 64 Buddy Checks for a second round. Thanks to the assistance of Rebecca Schmidt, Don Gerhard, Matt Wasilefsky, and Gunny Parker (doing USMC) calls. We could use a couple of more helpers from membership or the Auxiliary, if available. In the future, we will make these calls each quarter.

We have roughly 40 hours in for month so far. We have assisted 5 members of Post 64 and worked 2 days at Ahwatukee Chili Fest with David Green, Pete Meier, Mark Shillinger, Tamma Notaro and Roddy Charlton, Thank You.

We are beginning to acquire some small health assistance items in our storage area. If you, or anyone you know, need help with these kinds of items, let me know! If an electric wheelchair, bed or lift is needed, we can assist there also through PVA Please contact me if any assistance is needed.

Chaplain—Rebecca Schmidt

Almighty God, we ask you to keep these United States in Your holy protection. Cultivate in the hearts of all her citizens the spirit of devotion and obedience to lawful and moral government, of love toward their fellow citizens, and of dedication to the principles of our American founding. Watch over our beloved country, O God. Preserve her integrity, and guard her from all her enemies that she may be guided ever onward by You in ways of peace--a happy, prosperous, and divinely blessed nation. Amen.

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Betty Schmelzer, beloved wife of Ted Schmelzer, has passed. Please keep Ted and their family in your prayers. Lord, please keep their family in your loving care.

SICK CALL

James Woods

Don Cieri

Joe Hendrix (Jay's brother)

Ann Schminke

Bob Gill

Bev Shillinger

Let us pray they "Get Well Soon!"

POST 64 HONOR & REMEMBRANCE SERVICE (Wednesday, April 17, 2024)

Our April monthly Membership Meeting will include our annual Honor & Remembrance Service, to honor Auxiliary and Post members who passed away in the last year. All are welcome.

OTHER SPECIAL DATES IN APRIL

Apr 6 -- Army Day

Apr 9 -- National Former POW Recognition Day

Apr 11 -- Persian Gulf War Official Cease Fire (1991)

Apr 15 -- Income Tax Day

Apr 22 -- Passover Begins

Apr 26 -- Arbor Day

MANY THANKS to ALL who donated Raffle & Silent Auction Items to make our Springfest such a success: Don Gerhard, Janice Hecht, Pete Meier, Craig Annis, Bill Musik, Tamma Notaro, Brenda Smull, Lary Brown, Gunny, Jay Hendrix, and Roddy Charlton.

POST 64 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE (Wednesday, April 17, 2024)

Our April monthly membership meeting will include our annual Remembrance Service, to honor our members who passed away in the last year.



Sgt-At-Arms—Mark Shillinger

At the March 20th monthly general meeting, the colors were pre-posted and the Pow-Mia ceremony was performed.

Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and an opening prayer was offered. Officer reports were given.

In attendance were three members of the JVA group.

SpringFest, our spring fundraiser, was on Saturday, March 9th, in the ARC Main Hall. The Color Guard posted the colors at the beginning of the event. Thanks to Rod Green, Pete Meier, Roddy Charlton and Brenda Smull for posting colors. SpringFest was a great success, thanks to all who helped, from soliciting raffle items, to dishing up dinner. The Auxiliary played a big part in this year's SpringFest! Thanks again!

The Color Guard will participate in the Kiwanis Easter Parade again this year. The parade will be on March 30th, at 10 am. Jay Hendrix will lead the burial flag detail, behind the Color Guard, with Boy Scout Troop #172 carrying burial flags.

Saturday, April 13th, Support the Troops will hold its semi-annual Shred-A-Thon, in the ARC parking lot, at 9 am-11 am. Come on out and help out!

Our next regular meeting on April 17th, will be our annual remembrance meeting, remembering and honoring those members who have passed in the last year.

On Saturday, April 20th, Post 64 will perform its quarterly street clean-up on Elliot Road. The group will form up at Safeway, on Elliot and 48th Street, at 8 am.

On May 25th and 26th, Post 64 will work with the Jewish War Veterans group to sell poppies, at the Fry's on Ray Rd and 40th Street.

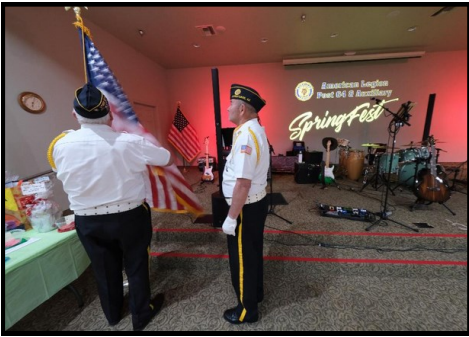
The bingo committee reported that progress is being made investigating the details of holding bingo games, possible fund-raising amounts and costs to start and run the games. More to follow.

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, or 520-433-0538.





SpringFest 2024



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 64 Ahwatukee

President – Darlene Hunter

First of all, let me commend the ALAers (and BJ Stites from Support The Troops) who acted as food servers, raffle ticket sellers and gave general assistance at the Post’s SpringFest Dinner/ Dance to create a seamless operation and ultimately help make this fundraiser a success! Bravo, all!

On behalf of Unit 64 Auxiliary, I extend our heartfelt “thanks” to the members of Post 64 for their generous donation as a result of this fundraiser. It’s greatly appreciated!

I attended District 12’s meeting on Sunday, March 12th. Our Unit took 2nd Place on Membership. We’ll reveal our “prize” at the next meeting.

On Monday, March 18th, Roddy Charlton, Mark Shillinger and I met with Tim Harvey at Post 91. Our meeting lasted about an hour-and-a-half, but boy! was it ever rich in all the in’s and out’s involving a bingo operation. Tim covered the whole gambit for us from start to finish and offered his continued assistance should we need the help. Our next step is to meet with the bingo equipment and assorted accessories supplier to determine relevant costs. However, if you’re looking for a place with a reasonably-priced lunch and dinner menu, Post 91 operates Toot’s Kitchen – drop in and try them out (Al and I are going Friday to try out their Fish Fry from 5PM – 8PM...it’s a full meal for \$12.00. Can’t beat that!). They’re located at the far end of the SW corner at Alma School and Ray Road. Let’s show them our appreciation and support for extending a helping hand!

Although we’re going to provide poppies for the Jewish War Veterans at the Fry’s Fundraiser on May 25th and 26th (Memorial Day weekend), I would like to test placing a Poppy Donation Can with a cluster of poppies at a business location (to be determined) this year to ascertain viability for a potential roll-out next year. We need to acquire Pringle cans as soon as possible so we can affix our labels).

That’s the news for now. Ever onward and upward...



April 2024

American Legion Post 64



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6  ARMY DAY
7	8	9	10 Executive Meeting ARC 4:00 pm	11	12	13
14	15  TAX -DAY-	16	17 General Meeting ARC Main Hall 4:00 pm	18	19	20  Street Cleanup
21	22	23	24	25	26  Arbor DAY	27
28	29	30		 Remembrance Service 04/17/2024		

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	peterhmeier@gmail.com
Adjutant	Roddy Charlton	480-993-6980	wrcinaz@aol.com
Finance Officer	Jay Hendrix	602-616-1960	jayhendrix@cox.net
Chaplain	Rebecca Schmidt	602-292-8401	rebeccacinaz@aol.com
Service Officer	Craig Annis	480-255-5622	craigannis@ymail.com
Sergeant-At-Arms	Mark Shillinger	520-433-0538	markshillinger@hotmail.com
Information Officer	David Green	928-830-0085	david.a.greenjr@gmail.com

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE



Honoring: Emil Jansky James Ortega
Alice Maynard Ron Rasmussen
Mike McCarron David Shepard

American Legion Post 64

April 17, 2024 - 4PM Main Hall

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

