



**AHWATUKEE AMERICAN LEGION POST 64  
DECEMBER 2019**

<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 !**

**1. COMMANDER'S COMMENTS: (from Commander Pete Meier)**

Hopefully everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving! We provided Color Guard Services for Veterans Day activities at Sunrise Senior Center in Chandler. On November 15 we participated in "AHWATUKEE EATS FOOD TRUCK FEST" as a fund raiser for Veterans' meals. Upcoming events include the ARC Holiday Boutique on Wed., December 4 from 2 to 7 pm. We will be manning a table and providing "Poppies for Donations". We also donated 2 flag sets for the raffle prizes. Pearl Harbor Day will be observed with a Massing of the Colors at Marcos De Niza High School on Friday, December 6 from 7 to 8:30 am. There is always a Pearl Harbor Commemoration at Wesley Bolin Plaza on December 7. Don't forget our upcoming WINTERFEST dinner and dance; this was a sell out last year with great food and a great band. Look for ticket sales right after the first of the year. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



left-Sunrise Senior Living Center November 9



right-Ahwatukee Eats November 15

**2. MEMBERSHIP: (from First Vice Commander Bob Smithson)**

2020 to date: Total roster (228); Total paid (160); Expired (8); Transfers in (18); New (6); Deceased (5). We are presently at 77% of our goal of 207 paid for 2019-2020.

For those members yet to renew - If you can renew your membership before 1 January you would do a big favor for your Post. The Legion Department of Arizona is raising dues by \$1 but Post 64 is not. At present we retain \$3 of your dues but starting 1 January it will only be \$2. As meager as it seems, the dues help greatly to support our programs and events. So if you can see to it, renew now to keep the extra dollar for our Post.

Don't forget the Online method of renewing. Go to [www.legion.com/renew](http://www.legion.com/renew). After you renew I will send you the 2020 membership card the next day.

A big **Thank You** to our recruiters of the month Linda Berry, Dave VonTersch and Roger Munchbach for enlisting one new member each! Roland Ramsey, Steve Parker and Mary Sykes are the new members. **Welcome** to Post 64 and thank you for your service!

Two of our 25 year continuous members have renewed their membership. **Congratulations** to Gerald Allen and Don Seeman!

**3. CHAPLAIN'S COMMENTS: (from Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt)**

THE PASSING OF A FRIEND--

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers our long-term member Dan O'Brien. His beloved wife Darlene passed on October 31, 2019. Dan was the manager of the ARC for many years, and now resides in Wilmington, NC.

## THE HOLIDAYS--

Hanukkah begins December 22, and we celebrate Christmas on December 25. Wishing you and your loved ones peace, joy, and happiness during this Holiday Season (and throughout the year)!

## THE NEW YEAR--

I'd like to share a prayer from the Chaplain's Manual: "As the old year comes to an end, let us ponder on what it has held for us. Let us be thankful for the rich experiences it gave us--for every sympathetic smile, for every tear--for moments which brought laughter's melody--for nature's loveliness, and for friendship's beauty. Let us also ask forgiveness for thoughts and deeds unwise. As we stand on the threshold of a New Year--let us be thankful for the opportunity to stand and peer intently, eagerly beyond the door to so many challenges that lie ahead. May we have the courage, truth, and faith to meet them without flinching and thought of self. Amen."

We thank you, Lord, for our many blessings!

### 4. MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 20 MEETING:

29 members and guests were in attendance.

First Vice Commander Bob Smithson reported membership for 2019-2020 at 144 of 207 or 70%.



Second Vice Commander Doug Patterson reported that local Girl Scout Jane Spellman continues to raise funds for a Post 64 flag drop box and dedication plaque for the new flag pole.

Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt reported on the passing of Darlene O'Brien (see her article above). She and her husband Roddy Charlton attended the services for Janice Langley-Smith at the National Cemetery on November 11.

Color Guard Commander Dave VonTersch reported on the Veterans Day Program presented at Sunrise Senior Assisted Living in Chandler on November 9. The Post Color Guard presented Colors and the 5 Service Flags with music. The staff of the facility presented pins to their veteran residents recognizing the branch of the military in which they had served. On November 15 the Color Guard also participated in the "Ahwatukee Eats" Food Truck Festival.

The Post will participate in the ARC Holiday Boutique on December 4 from 2-7 pm. Poppies will be distributed for donations which will be used to provide Christmas for the family of a veteran. The family is adopted through the 'Save the Family' organization in Mesa. This year we have a family of 5.

Winterfest is scheduled for Saturday, January 18, 2020, ()).



Guest speakers were Leeza Kelley, University Development Counselor Military Division, and Ashley Smith, from Grand Canyon University. The topics they covered included: free evaluation of military training and experience to determine transferable college credits; flexible academic plans and 200+ academic programs; tuition assistance for active duty military; scholarships; the new Forever GI Bill; delegating your GI Bill education benefits to your dependents; and step-by-step guidance throughout your education at their university. More information can be obtained at

- 480-356-8576 (Ms. Kelley's cell phone)
- [leeza.kelley@gcu.edu](mailto:leeza.kelley@gcu.edu)
- [gcu.edu/c/leeza.kelley](http://gcu.edu/c/leeza.kelley)

Mary Williams reported that the Support the Troops Club and America Legion mailed 150 boxes to the troops on November 14. The total cost was almost \$3000.00 at \$18.45 per box through the US Postal Service.

During American Education Week, November 18-23, Roger and Deb Munchbach delivered snacks to the staffs of 7 area schools. They also attended a Happy Hour at Aunt Chilada's on November 15 with members of the Schwab Military Veterans Network.

**THE NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2019, AT ARC.**

#### 5. POST 64 OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN FOR 2019-2020

COMMANDER	PETE MEIER	602-690-3361	<a href="mailto:petemeier@cox.net">petemeier@cox.net</a>
FIRST VICE COMMANDER	BOB SMITHSON	480-496-0705	<a href="mailto:busibob@aol.com">busibob@aol.com</a>
ASSISTANT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN	KEN DEMBIEC	480-206-3098	<a href="mailto:singingdebbie@hotmail.com">singingdebbie@hotmail.com</a>
SECOND VICE COMMANDER	DOUG PATTERSON	602-791-6843	<a href="mailto:dpatterson27@cox.net">dpatterson27@cox.net</a>
ADJUTANT/HISTORIAN	ROGER MUNCHBACH	480-705-9527	<a href="mailto:munchaz@msn.com">munchaz@msn.com</a>
FINANCE OFFICER	JAY HENDRIX	480-831-9121	<a href="mailto:jayhendrix@cox.net">jayhendrix@cox.net</a>
CHAPLAIN	REBECCA SCHMIDT	602-292-8401	<a href="mailto:rebeccacinaz@aol.com">rebeccacinaz@aol.com</a>
SERVICE OFFICER	ED MANGAN	602-501-0128	<a href="mailto:emangan3@aol.com">emangan3@aol.com</a>
ASST. SERVICE OFFICER/VET'S ADVOCATE	JOHN BOYER	520-705-7185	<a href="mailto:nisjohn@cox.net">nisjohn@cox.net</a>
SGT-AT-ARMS/COLOR GUARD CMDR.	DAVE VONTERSCH	480-753-4166	<a href="mailto:djvontersch@q.com">djvontersch@q.com</a>
ASST. SGT-AT-ARMS/COLOR GUARD COMDR.	RODDY CHARLTON	480-993-6980	<a href="mailto:wrcinaz@aol.com">wrcinaz@aol.com</a>
PUBLIC INFORMATION	BRENDA SMULL	303-301-4429	<a href="mailto:bsmull@me.com">bsmull@me.com</a>
REFRESHMENT CHAIRMAN	ALICE MAYNARD	480-244-6539	<a href="mailto:amaynard2007@yahoo.com">amaynard2007@yahoo.com</a>

#### 6. REMEMBER WHEN (Installment #8 reviewing the first 25 years of Post 64): *Earlier installments are available online in the newsletters of February thru June and October thru November of 2019*

##### JUNE 2008 TO JUNE 2009

Department Commander was Henry Branch. Post Commander was Hank Johnson. Color Guard Commander was Ed Mangan. The Color Guard presented Colors or patriotic programs at ARC, Akimel Middle School, Monte Vista Elementary School, and the Post Golf Tournament.

The American Legion National Convention was held in Phoenix from August 22-28, 2008.

Post 64 had a year of elected public officials giving guest presentations at their monthly meetings. US Representative Harry Mitchell (October 15, 2008), State Treasurer Dean Martin (November 19, 2008), Phoenix City Councilman Sal DiCiccio (March 17, 2009), and State Senator John Huppenthal (April 15, 2009).

In October 2008, Post 64 donated \$581.00 to the new "Support the Troops Club" at ARC to help send packages to troops deployed overseas. This program has continued ever since, with the support of Post 64 among others.

Candy was delivered to the schools during American Education Week.

In December 2008, Post 64 donated teddy bears and books to the American Legion Auxiliary Gift Shop. In December 2008 they also gave \$500.00 to the Military and Veterans' Lounge at Phoenix Sky Harbor Terminal 2. Through the years, as the airport lounge was taken over by the USO and moved to Terminal 4, Post 64 has continued making donations.

December 12, 2008, was the catered Holiday party.

April 11, 2009, was the Easter Parade. The Post 64 entry that day was restricted to the main Color Guard only, as for the first time in 33 years, the parade took place in a soaking rain. We still had the hot dog picnic and jazz band concert, though!

April 17, 2009, was Patriotic Day at Akimel Middle School.

In April 2009, the Post was given storage space in Building B at ARC for all of their property and records. Charlie Roloff was finally able to reclaim his garage for his own use.

May 17, 2009, was the first annual Post 64 Golf Tournament at Foothills Club West. The Chairman was Rod Green. Approximately \$4500.00 was raised.

Home-schooled student David Godfrey was sponsored by Post 64 to attend Boys State.

School Awards were presented to Kyle Dominy and Kathryn Johnson (Centennial Middle School), Alexis Apodoca and Lauren Hockenberger (Akimel Middle School), and Zachary Elwell and Nana Sarkodee-Adoo (Altadena Middle School). Mountain Pointe did not choose recipients in 2009. School Awards and, for the first time, \$100 scholarships were presented to Luke Catena and Ashley Booth (Desert Vista High School).

Department Convention was June 18-21 at the Renaissance Hotel in Glendale. Membership goal for the year was 140, and 100% was achieved by March 2009.

### **JUNE 2009 TO JUNE 2010**

Department Commander was Carol Hamburger. Post Commander was Rod Green. Color Guard Commander was Ed Mangan. The Color Guard presented colors or other patriotic programs at ARC, Akimel Middle School, ARC Women's Club, Marcos de Niza High School, the Post Golf Tournament, and Centennial Middle School. The Honor Guard attended the memorial service for member Charles Evanello.

During the year, members helped the City of Phoenix Parks Department with clean-up and trail development in the South Mountain 620 area.

The Post started purchasing name tags through American Legion Emblem Sales for any member requesting one. The Color Guard members were the first.

Guest speakers of note at monthly meetings were: Art Sloane, author of the "Veterans Voice" in the *Arizona Republic* and Arizona Secretary of State Ken Bennett.

The Post was also able to make some sizable donations because of successful fundraising (especially the golf tournament): \$250.00 to the AZ Veterans Stand Down at the state fair grounds; \$250.00 to the Support the Troops club at ARC for packages to deployed service persons; \$250.00 to the Veterans' and Military Hospitality Room at Sky Harbor Airport; \$250 to a local Marine paralyzed from the neck down in an auto accident; \$250.00 to the US Vets Initiative in Phoenix; \$114 to the American Legion Auxiliary Christmas Gift Shop at the Phoenix VA Hospital; and \$35 to United Food Bank.

In July 2009, the Post donated to the First Ahwatukee "Red, White, and Boom" fireworks held on July 3, 2009. The Color Guard presented Colors before the fireworks began at Ahwatukee Country Club. They also had a veteran's display table at ARC over the holiday.

Candy was delivered to area schools during American Education Week.

The catered Holiday Party was held on December 5, 2009, with 157 in attendance. The JROTC from Desert Ridge High School in Gilbert performed the POW/MIA Remembrance Table Ceremony and joined the Post for dinner.

The Support the Troops Club sent packages twice this year, in the fall and again in the spring, with continued assistance from Post 64 members. Before Christmas 89 boxes were shipped.

On February 20, 2010, members attended the JROTC drill competition sponsored by Sons of the American Legion Squadron 1 at the Air National Guard complex at Phoenix Sky Harbor. It was done in a pouring rainstorm.

March 26, 2010, was Patriotic Day at Akimel Middle School. Essay Contest winners were Nicole Ramirez and Arasela Stewart. The topic was "What is my patriotic role as a US citizen?"

April 3, 2010, was the Easter Parade, hot dog picnic, and jazz band concert.

April 10, 2010, was the second annual Post 64 Golf Tournament at Foothills Club West. 96 golfers participated.

May 31, 2010, for the first time, the Post 64 Color Guard marched in the Parade of Colors and presented a wreath at the Memorial Day program at the National Cemetery. They have participated every year since then.

June 14, 2010, Post 64 conducted a flag retirement program in the ARC parking lot for the first time. There were 100 people in the audience.

School Awards were presented to Alex Pepe and Jessica Rein (Centennial Middle School), and Matthias Wilson and Tricia Andrews (Akimel Middle School). The other recipients that year were not recorded.

Boys State citizens that year sponsored by Post 64 were Connor McCook and Quinn Tucker (Mountain Pointe High School) and Timothy Lee (Desert Vista High School).

Department Convention was at the Renaissance Hotel in Glendale, June 17-20, 2010. Membership reached 100% in May 2010.



December 2019 ***denotes Color Guard event						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 ARC Club Boutique 2-7 pm	5	6 ***Massing of the Colors Marcos de Niza High School 7-8:30 am	7 Pearl Harbor Day
8	9	10	11 Executive Committee Meeting at ARC 4 pm	12	13 National Guard Birthday	14 Army/Navy College Football Game
15 Bill of Rights Day	16	17	18 *** Post General Membership Meeting at ARC 4 pm	19	20 Panama/Operation Just Cause 1989	21 Start of Winter (Winter Solstice)
22 First day of Hanukkah	23	24	25 Christmas	26	27	28
29	30 Final Day of Hanukkah	31 New Year's Eve	UPCOMING EVENTS: January 4, 2020 ARC Clubs Open House 9:30 to Noon January 4, 2020 Department of Arizona Headquarters Open House Noon to 5 January 18, 2020 *** Post 64 Winterfest 5 to 9 pm			