



AHWATUKEE AMERICAN LEGION POST 64
FEBRUARY 2020

<http://www.americanlegionpost64.com/>

**MEETINGS HELD AT THE AHWATUKEE RECREATION CENTER, 5001 E. CHEYENNE DR.,
PHOENIX, AZ 85044
ON THE THIRD WED. FROM SEPTEMBER THROUGH JUNE AT 4:00PM.**

**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)

WOW!!! WHAT A Winterfest event-- the Best One Ever. We had about 180 guests and supporters there who had a great time. Many thanks to Melissa Williams for chairing the event.

American Legion Post #64 will be having a table at the ARC Clubs and Groups OPEN HOUSE, Sat., February 8 from 9:30 am til Noon. We will be raffling off some flags and having some poppies for donations. We'll also be having some of our History Books to view and explain about The American Legion and what we are about.

We will be holding another Quarterly street clean up on the 22 of February at 8 am in the parking lot of Safeway, at the SE corner of Elliot and 48th St. We need about 10 volunteers and it takes 1.5 to 2 hrs. Please let me (Commander Pete) know if you can make it. Contact information is later on in the newsletter.



(top) On January 7, Post members helped Ed Wilner celebrate his 100th Birthday. Ed has been an American Legion member for 20 years.
(bottom) Scenes from Winterfest, January 18. A Good Time Was Had By All !



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

2020 Totals to date: Roster (232); Paid (185); Expired (8); Transfers in (20); New (7); Deceased (6). We are at 89% of our goal of 207 paid.

Welcome new member to the Legion and our Post, Peter Buchanan, recruited by Commander Pete Meier. Peter is our first veteran to join under the revised requirements.

Those who have not paid dues as of yet should have received a **PAST DUE** notice from National. A 2020 Legion card may be necessary if you intend to enter a Legion club room. You can renew by going online at

www.legion.org/renew or mail in your \$30 dues to Post 64 at 5001 E. Cheyenne Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85044. We are getting so close to our goal, only 21 more paid memberships are needed to achieve 100%. It would be greatly appreciated, if you can see to it, to renew now rather than later.

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



IN SYMPATHY

Our longtime member and friend Robert Enns passed on 4 January. Robert was a proud Marine during Vietnam. He had been a member of the American Legion for 19 years. His service will be held on 21 February at the Arizona National Cemetery (23029 N. Cave Creed Road), with a Celebration of Life to follow at the Ahwatukee Golf Club from Noon to 3pm. Our deepest sympathy and prayers go to his wife Judith.

PRESIDENTS' MONTH

Dear Heavenly Father,

We gather here in this month of Presidents giving thanks for this great country and for the many freedoms afforded us under her 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, for the good of us all, we reverently ask that "God Bless America." Amen

VALENTINE'S DAY

Lord,

We thank you for all the Love we have been blessed with throughout our lives: love of our spouses and significant others, of our families and friends, and of our greatful nation.

Please continue to watch over all those wonderful people in our lives. Happy Valentine's Day!

POST MEMORIAL SERVICE

Our annual Post Memorial Service, to pray for and recognize our departed members of the past year, will be part of our 20 May monthly meeting.

3. MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON JANUARY 15, 2020:

30 guests and members were in attendance.

Membership was reported at 177 (85.5%). See Membership Report above.

Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt reported that Bob Enns passed away on January 4. See her report above. Craig Annis presented pictures of Bob to the Post which had been given to him by Judy Enns. Mary Williams had surgery on her hand. The Annual Memorial Service for members who have entered Post Everlasting since May 2019 will be held at the regular meeting on May 20, 2020.

Color Guard Commander Dave VonTersch finalized preparations for Winterfest to be held Sat., January 18. He needs volunteers for the POW / MIA Table Ceremony. An Evolution of the Flag Program is scheduled for the DAR in Mesa on June 13. The June 14 Flag Retirement Program will be June 14, but will require modifications because of the new parking lot at ARC.

Brenda Smull spoke about the Arizona Stand Down scheduled for Jan. 23 and 24 at Veterans Memorial Colliseum, where she will be volunteering. On February 13 she will be speaking at a Vet's Talk Career Fair at the University of Phoenix. She would like Post 64 to have an information table at the event, as they did last year.

A thank you card was read from the family sponsored by the Post through 'Save the Family' for Christmas.

The Rehab Dinner and Auction will be Sat., Feb. 1, at Post 35 in Chandler. See calendar later in newsletter.

Details on an "unserviceable flag drop box" at ARC are still being discussed.

We need to schedule a street clean-up in February.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19, AT 4 PM AT THE AHWATUKEE RECREATION CENTER, 5001 E. CHEYENNE DR., PHOENIX, AZ 85044.

4. REMEMBER WHEN (Installment #10 reviewing the first 25 years of Post 64): *Earlier installments are available online in the newsletters of February thru June and October thru December of 2019 and January of 2020.*

JUNE 2012 TO JUNE 2013

Department Commander was Ken Douse. Post Commander was Pete Meier. Color Guard Commander was Ed Mangan. The Color Guard presented Colors or other patriotic programs at: ARC; Carl Hayden High School; Akimel Middle School; Higley High School; the Ahwatukee Car Show; Mesa Dobson Ranch Park; ARC Women's Club; Marcos de Niza High School; the Pearl Harbor Commemoration at Wesley Bolin Plaza; Vietnam Veteran Recognition Dinner; Gold Star Wives at the AZ State Veterans Home; DAR; Department Oratorical Finals; First Responders Dinner at Foothills Golf Course; YOPAS; the Post Golf Tournament and Centennial Middle School. The Honor Guard attended funerals or memorial services for Dick Downing, Frank Thraen, Jr., Virgil Tracy, Martin "Skip" Oddo, George Lambert, and Charlie Roloff.

At the July 3 "Red, White, and Boom" Celebration the Post had a booth at the carnival and presented Colors before the fireworks. On July 4 they co-hosted a picnic at ARC. They also put up a patriotic display table at ARC.

That Fall the Post became part of the Phoenix Adopt-A-Street Program. Four times a year they became responsible for clean-up along Elliot Rd. from 48th St. to Equestrian Trail. The city put up signs recognizing the Post at both ends of their assignment. They have continued this service every year since beginning.

The Post continued to give money and hands to the Support the Troops program at ARC in both November 2012 and April 2013.

December 1, 2012, was the catered Holiday party. The JROTC from Desert Ridge High School once again performed the POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony. A tree was put up at the Phoenix VA Hospital. \$125 was donated to the Auxiliary Gift Shop at the VA hospital.

On January 25, 2013, the Post was part of the 40th Anniversary Celebration at ARC.

February 23, 2013, was a Vietnam Veteran Recognition Program at ARC in cooperation with Gold Star Wives.

February 24, 2013, the Post did their second street clean-up, receiving assistance from Girl Scout Troop 612.

March 2, 2013, the Post hosted the Department Oratorical Finals at ARC.

On March 6, 2013, long-time Post 64 Color Guard advocate, Charlie Roloff, entered Post Everlasting.

March 16, 2013, the Post Color Guard was part of a re-dedication ceremony for the Blue Star Memorial in Ahwatukee Park at the corner of 48th St. and Warner Rd.

March 23, 2013, was the fifth annual golf tournament at Ahwatukee Country Club. Craig Annis was the Chairman.

The Easter parade, hot dog picnic, and jazz band concert took place on March 30, 2013.

Patriotic Day was April 5, 2013. Essay Contest winners were: 6th grade: Aditi Chaudhari (first prize) and Caitlyn Bellamy, Makayla Belfiore, and Allison Ray (all honorable mention); and 8th grade: Madeline Bucci (first prize) and Michaella Hernandez, Kendall Schwartz, and Bryan Burnett (all honorable mention). The essay topic was "What freedom do I enjoy the most?"

May 27, 2013, the Color Guard marched in the Parade of Colors and presented a wreath at the Memorial Day Ceremony at the AZ National Cemetery. Madeline Nicholls, a freshman at Chandler Preparatory Academy, was a speaker, giving a speech which she had written about how veterans had affected her life. The entire Post delegation had brunch at Post 107 after the program.

Boys State citizens sponsored by Post 64 from Mountain Pointe High School were Max Ferraro and Neeraj Vij.

School Awards were presented to Caroline Cook and Sarah Ding (Centennial Middle School), Mya Carrizosa and Colin Smith (Akimel Middle School), and Luck Heywood and Audrey Scalia (Altadena Middle School). School Awards and \$100 scholarships were presented to Jessica Zhu and Lucas Hunter (Mountain Pointe High School) and Josh Greene and Carly Contract (Desert Vista High School).

Department Convention was June 20-23, 2013, at Carefree Resort. The Post 64 Color Guard took part in the Color Guard Exhibition on Saturday afternoon. The members of the Color Guard were Ed Mangan, Pete Meier, Rod Green, Dave VonTersch, and Mike McCarron. Membership ended the year at 139 of 148 (93.9%).

JUNE 2013 TO JUNE 2014

Department Commander was Judi Beischel. Post Commander was Pete Meier. Color Guard Commander for the first half of the year was Ed Mangan, and for the second half of the year was Rod Green. The Color Guard presented Colors or other patriotic programs at: ARC; Akimel Middle School; DAR; the Ahwatukee Car Show; Marcos de Niza High School; the Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration at Wesley Bolin Plaza; South Mountain Community College; the Post Golf Tournament; and Centennial Middle School. The Honor Guard attended the funeral service of Andrew Wink.

June 14, 2013, the Post conducted a flag retirement ceremony in the ARC parking lot.

The Post made a \$250 donation to the Ahwatukee Red, White, and Boom celebration. Once again they had a booth at the carnival and presented Colors before the start of the fireworks on July 3, 2013. On July 6, 2013, there was a potluck at ARC celebrating Independence Day. The Post had a table display of patriotic and veterans' items.

On August 6, 2013, President Barak Obama paid a visit to Desert Vista High School.

Quarterly street clean-ups continued all year.

In September 2013, the Post purchased a POW/MIA flag for the flag pole in the ARC parking lot.

That Fall, the Post was approved to receive 10 M1 ceremonial rifles and 1200 rounds of blank ammunition. Terri Williford donated a gun safe which was installed in the Post storage room in Building B at ARC.

In November 2013 the Post took part in sending 100 packages to deployed service members along with the Support the Troops Club at ARC.

The Post purchased a paver for the new WWII Memorial built at Wesley Bolin Plaza, and the Color Guard attended the dedication of the memorial on Pearl Harbor Day 2013.

The Holiday Party was held on December 7, 2013. Post members performed the POW/MIA recognition service before dinner. A tree was set up at the Phoenix VA Hospital. A Christmas family of 4 and another Christmas family of 2 were sponsored by the Post through Operation Holiday Arizona, a program of the Women's Army Corps Veterans Association.

In February 2014, Bob Smithson participated in the Phone-a-Thon to get Post 100 members to transfer to Post 64, with between 20 and 30 members actually transferring.

March 1, 2014, the Post hosted the Department Oratorical Finals.

April 17, 2014, was Patriotic Day at Akimel Middle School. Essay contest winners were: 6th Grade: Leah Kahldon (first prize) and Elena Bradstream, Natalie Lewkowitz, and Aubrie Raposa (all honorable mention); 7th grade: Kalen Owes (first prize) and Riley Walker, Carsten Weick, and Alyssa Hall (all honorable mention); and 8th grade: Alex Depriest (first prize) and Jake Wadzeck, Tara Yngelmo, and Jacob Niileksela (all honorable mention). The topic this year was "How can I show my pride in being an American?"

April 19, 2014, was the Easter Parade, hot dog picnic, and jazz band concert.

April 27, 2014, was the 6th Annual Post 64 Golf Tournament at Ahwatukee Country Club. Mike McCarron was the event Chairman. Over \$7000.00 was raised.

Michael Beiley from Mountain Pointe High School was chosen for Boys State but did not attend. Roger Munchbach made 12 gavels to present to the Boys State mayors.

School Awards were presented to Ashley Cantrell and Jacob McKeon (Centennial Middle School), Jenny Ngo and Cameron Gardner (Akimel Middle School), and Sylvia Kelley and Duane Miller (Altadena Middle School). School Awards and \$100 scholarships were presented to Margarita Garcia and Timothy Hernandez (Mountain Pointe High School) and Christian Beasley and Alexia Foster (Desert Vista High School). This year, for the first time, the scholarship money was all donated in memory of Charlie Roloff by his 3 daughters; Diane Laubmeier, Debra Bruns, and Renee McLaughlin.

May 26, 2014, the Post Color Guard marched in the Parade of Colors and presented a wreath at the Memorial Day commemoration at the AZ National Cemetery. Afterward, the Post 64 delegation attended brunch at Post 107.

June 26-29, 2014, was Department Convention at the Carefree Resort. Membership goal was 140, and the Post reached 100%.

5. POST 64 OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN FOR 2019-2020

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

February 2020 ***denotes Color or Honor Guard Event						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 District 12 Rehab Dinner and Auction at Post 35, 2240 W. Chandler Blvd., Chandler No Host Bar 4 pm Dinner 5 pm
2 Groundhog Day / Super Bowl Department Four Pillars Conference Apache Post 27 10 am to 2 pm	3	4	5	6	7	8 Open House for ARC Clubs 9:30 am to Noon
9 Bob 'Doc' Graves' Celebration of Life at ARC 2-4 pm	10	11	12 Executive Committee Meeting at ARC 4 pm	13 Creative Arts Festival at Phoenix VA Hospital 9 am to Noon	14 Valentine's Day	15 District 11 and 12 Oratorical Contest at Post 35 2240 W. Chandler Blvd., Chandler 10 am
16	17 Presidents Day	18	19 ***Post General Membership Meeting at ARC 4 pm	20	21 ***Bob Enns Service at AZ National Cemetery 23029 N. Cave Creek Rd., Phoenix at 10 am ***Bob Enns' Celebration of Life at Ahwatukee Country Club Noon to 3 pm	22 Area B Oratorical Contest at Post 27 1018S. Meridian Rd., Apache Junction 9 am Street Clean Up 8 am Meet at Safeway, Elliot Rd. And 48th St.
23	24	25	26 Ash Wednesday	27	28	29

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- March 7 Department Oratorical Finals at Mesa Post 26, 505 W. 2nd Ave., Mesa 10 am
- March 8 District 12 Family Picnic at Post 41, 715 S. 2nd Ave., Phoenix Noon