



AHWATUKEE AMERICAN LEGION POST 64  
JANUARY 2020

<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 !**

**PLEASE NOTE !!! BECAUSE THE RAIN HAS SLOWED DOWN PUTTING A SURFACE ON THE  
ARC PARKING LOT, THE "CLUBS OPEN HOUSE" ORIGINALLY SET FOR JANUARY 4, 2020,  
HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED TO  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2020, FROM 9:30 TO NOON**

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

Hopefully everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Years Holiday.

The Post provided an Honors Ceremony for Jim Mooney at Mountain View Lutheran Church on December 21. Our condolences go out to Alice Mooney and family. "Winterfest 2020" is coming up on 1/18/2020. Tickets are \$25.00 per person. Like last year, Caterer "ED" will bring a choice of medallions of beef in wine sauce or chicken marsala and all the fixings; BYOB. Ed Mangan our "Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame" member will be doing the POW / MIA Ceremony at 6 pm sharp. We will be having Raffle prizes and a 50/50 drawing during the evening. The same great band we had last year will be playing. "THE RHYTHM EDITION" PLAYS 40'S, 50'S, 60'S, CLASSIC ROCK, COUNTRY AND OLDIES. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm and dancing will start after. For tickets contact ED Mangan at 602-501-0128, Pete Meier at 602-690-3361, or Mary Williams at 480-203-6662. (see ad further on in this newsletter)

Get well wishes go out to Bob Enns who is homebound and on oxygen 24 hrs. a day.

Also we mourn the passing of Bob "DOC" Graves and our condolences go out to his wife Barbara Graves and his entire family.

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

2020 Totals to date: Roster (232); Paid (175); Expired (8); Transfers in (18); New (6); Deceased (5). We're at 84% of our goal of 207 paid.

Our roster has increased by 104 members since the end of 2015 when it had 128 paid members. Thanks to all the caring and dedicated veterans for building our Post and the Legion to stay strong. We are here to serve the past, present, and future Ahwatukee veterans. If anyone knows of a veteran that is not a Legion member, sign them up or refer them to me or any one of our officers.

The Legion Department of Arizona \$1 dues increase went into effect 1 January. However our Post dues remain the same at \$30 until 1 July when they will increase to \$35.

For those yet to renew you can do it Online at [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew) for the fastest way or mail it in.

We raffled two American flag sets at the ARC Holiday Boutique. Congratulations to the winners Gary Himes and Jean Rosenthal!

**3. MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 18, 2019 MEETING:**

22 members and guests were in attendance.

Commander Pete Meier reported that the Elliot Rd. street clean-up was done on Sat., Dec. 14.

Winterfest tickets will go on sale after Jan. 1, 2020. They will be \$25 per person. The band will cost more this year, but Brenda Smull and John Boyer are seeking corporate sponsors.

Assistant Membership Chairman Ken Dembiec reported that membership for 2019-2020 was at 169 of 207 or 82% of goal.

Service Officer Ed Mangan reported that he may be new to the job, but with John Boyer's assistance, together they will help veterans in need of assistance with VA issues and benefit questions.

Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt received a card from Post member Dan O'Brien thanking the Post for remembering him following the death of his wife Darlene. Post 64 uniformed members will be attending the funeral for Korea era Navy veteran James Mooney at 11:00 am on Sat., Dec. 21, 2019, at Mountain View Lutheran Church. The Honor Guard will conduct a short Memorial/Flag Folding Ceremony before the religious service.

Color Guard Commander Dave VonTersch reported on the plans for the ARC Club Open House scheduled for Jan. 4, 2020, from 9 am to Noon. There will be a POW/MIA Table Ceremony at the Winterfest on Jan. 18, 2020.



The guest speaker was Post 64 member and Senior Pastor Don Seeman. He is holding his first meeting of the Ahwatukee Community Veterans' Group on January 4, 2020, at Living Word Church in Ahwatukee. This is a Christ-Centered support group for veterans struggling with psychological and emotional issues.

More information can be obtained directly from Don at 480-935-0236. Don was also presented with a 25 YEAR CONTINUOUS AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE during the meeting. Thank you for your service to veterans!!!

Three Christmas trees were set up at the Phoenix VA Hospital on December 7 by members of Post 64. Christmas gifts for a veterans' family of 5 were delivered to Save the Family in Mesa on December 16. The Schwab Military Veterans' Network joined Post 64 in purchasing the gifts for this year's family, and we greatly appreciate them !

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 15, 2020, at ARC, starting at 4:00 pm.

#### 4. 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>

**5. REMEMBER WHEN (Installment #9 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***

**JUNE 2010 TO JUNE 2011**

Department Commander was Dick Perry. Post Commander was Rod Green. Color Guard Commander was Ed Mangan with Emil Jansky as his Assistant. The Color Guard presented Colors or other patriotic programs at: ARC; Akimel Middle School; Hawthorne Court Sr. Housing; Marcos de Niza High School; Pearl Harbor Day commemoration at Wesley Bolin Plaza; Centennial Middle School; an AZ Rattlers' game; the Rotary Club; and the Post Golf Tournament. The Honor Guard attended funerals or memorial services for Joe LeChaix and Matt Miller.

On July 3, 2010, the Color Guard opened the fireworks for the Ahwatukee Red, White, and Boom at Ahwatukee Country Club. They donated \$300 to the fireworks.

The USO took over the military and veteran lounge at Sky Harbor Airport and moved it to Terminal 4. Post 64 donated \$250. Other donations that year went to: YOPAS \$100; United Food Bank \$120; American Legion Baseball \$100; Mary Ellen's Place \$105 (for female veterans); AZ Veterans Stand Down \$250; American Legion Auxiliary VA Hospital Christmas Gift Shop \$179; Support the Troops Club at ARC \$250; and Girls Scout Cookie "Sweets to our Troops" \$50.

Post 64 was incorporated with the State of Arizona on September 20, 2010. Their official incorporation publications appeared the first week of January 2011. They applied for and received their Supplemental Charter from National and a new EIN to reflect their incorporated status.

They continued to volunteer with the South Mountain 620 trail project.

136 packages were sent to deployed service members in November 2010, and 125 packages in April 2011.

December 4, 2010, was the catered Holiday party. The POW/MIA table ceremony was performed by the JROTC from Desert Ridge High School in Gilbert. Christmas gifts were purchased for a family of 5 in south Phoenix, along with paying the family's outstanding bill with Southwest Gas. A tree was set up by the Post at the VA Hospital in Phoenix for the first time. The Post has continued to set up a tree every year since then.

In March 2011, Post 64 purchased their electronic ceremonial bugle.

April 1, 2011, was Patriotic Day at Akimel Middle School. The essay contest winners were 6th grade: Maya Williams (first place) and Mya Carrizosa, Josh Ridgeway, and Jacqui Williams (all honorable mention); 7th grade: Veronica Gasparro (first place) and Rylee Franks, Jenna Waterkotte, and Erica Richardson (all honorable mention); and 8th grade: Tayler Pyper (first place) and Albert Wang, Brian Ingersoll, and Jacobus Schieke (all honorable mention). This year's topic was, "How can I encourage my friends to show pride in being an American?"

April 9, 2011, was the third annual Post 64 golf tournament, however, the venue was changed to the Ahwatukee Country Club.

April 23, 2011, was the Easter Parade, hot dog picnic, and jazz band concert.

May 30, 2011, the Color Guard marched in the Parade of Colors and presented a wreath at the AZ National Cemetery. For the first time, the entire Post 64 delegation to the national cemetery stopped at Post 107 for Poppy Brunch following the ceremony.

June 14, 2011, there was a flag retirement program in the ARC parking lot.

Boys State citizens sponsored by Post 64 were Joseph Kim from Desert Vista High School, and Grady Bensted and Daniel Nyx from Mountain Pointe High School.

School Awards were presented to Xavier Balderamma and Madelyn Guyton (Centennial Middle School), Jacobus Schieke and Alexa Ryder (Akimel Middle School), and Michael Solomentsev and Aolfe Malone (Altadena Middle School). School Awards and \$100 scholarships were presented to Jacob Sciacca and Adrianna Preston (Mountain Pointe High School) and Dale Nicholls and Samantha Jaskolski (Desert Vista High School).

Department Convention was June 23-26, 2011, at the Carefree Resort. The membership goal for the year was 154 but was not attained. The highest number recorded was 145.

## **JUNE 2011 TO JUNE 2012**

Department Commander was George Cushing. Post Commander was Rod Green. Color Guard Commander was Ed Mangan, and his Assistant was Emil Jansky. The Color Guard presented Colors or other patriotic programs at: ARC; Department Oratorical Contest; the Ahwatukee Bowl on September 9, 2011, (Mountain Pointe vs. Desert Vista in football); Carl Hayden High School; Akimel Middle School; Williams Field High School (Veterans Day); DAR; Marcos de Niza High School; Kiwanis/Lions/Rotary Recognition Dinner; a separate Lion's Club meeting; the Post Golf Tournament; and Dobson Ranch Community Center. The Honor Guard attended funerals or memorial services for George Gulliford, Bob Roe, and Dale Morgan.

On July 3, 2011, the Post had a booth at the Red, White, and Boom Carnival at Ahwatukee Country Club and presented Colors before the start of the fireworks. Members helped with the Independence Day festivities at ARC.

The Post purchased wooden plaques of the emblems of the 5 major military branches to display at meetings and other events.

Packages were mailed to deployed service members in November.

On November 11, 2011, members attended the dedication of the new AZ State Veterans Home in Tucson.

The catered Holiday Party was on December 3, 2011. The JROTC from Desert Ridge High School in Gilbert performed the POW/MIA recognition ceremony. The Christmas family was from south Phoenix. A tree was set up at the Phoenix VA Hospital, and \$125 was donated to the Auxiliary Christmas Gift Shop at the VA hospital.

On March 3, 2012, the Department Oratorical Contest was hosted at ARC by Post 64 for the first time.

On March 24, 2012, the Post took part in the dedication of the Blue Star Memorial in Ahwatukee Park at 48th St. and Warner Rd. They purchased two pavers for the memorial: one engraved with American Legion Post 64 and the second with the ARC Veterans Club. The Desert Foothills Garden Club had been the organizing group behind the memorial, and had given presentations at several Post meetings during the year.

March 30, 2012, was Patriotic Day at Akimel Middle School. Essay contest winners were 6th grade: Rebecca Rockmaker (first place) and Adrianna Todd, Caleb Redshaw, and Louisa Mulderrig (all honorable mention); 7th grade: Nicole Trujillo (first place) and Anamaria Romero, Michaella Hernandez, and Matthew Martinez (all honorable mention); and 8th grade: Shiane Morrison (first place) and Kaylar Moser, Hunter LaRavia, and Skye Lindholme (all honorable mention). The topic was "How do I show patriotism in my community?"

March 31, 2012, was the 4th annual Post 64 golf tournament at Ahwatukee Country Club with 95 players.

April 7, 2012, was the annual Easter Parade, hot dog picnic, and jazz band concert.

That spring, the Post 64 website at [americanlegionpost64.com](http://americanlegionpost64.com) went live thanks to Jim Woods.

Boys State citizens sponsored by Post 64 from Mountain Pointe High School were Avi Dasgupta and Andrew Argaez. Andrew went on to attend Boys Nation.

School Awards were presented to Kelly Molera and Samariah Riggins (Centennial Middle School), Kaylar Moser and Kenneth Moser (Akimel Middle School), and Mara Kemmer and Adrian Perez (Altadena Middle School). School Awards and \$100 scholarships were presented to Garrett Gaughan and Taylor Trujillo (Mountain Pointe High School) and Kathryn Boyle and Sterling Boyns (Desert Vista High School).

June 14, 2012, a flag retirement ceremony was held in the ARC parking lot.

Department Convention was at the Carefree Resort from June 21-24, 2012. Membership ended the year at 148 of 146 (101.4%).

### **6. FROM CHAPLAIN REBECCA SCHMIDT:**

"Allow me to raise a glass to the work that has been done, the work that remains to be done. And let us also toast the art of friendly persuasion, the hope of peace with freedom, the hope of holding out for a better way of settling things."

President Ronald Reagan's toast to Mikhail Gorbachev (1989)

May the Lord look over us, our loved ones, our neighbors, our military, our veterans, and our country throughout this New Year and always! Peace, Health, and Happiness!



The American Legion Post 64

hosts

# Winterfest 2020

Saturday, January 18th, 5:30 PM

Music by Rhythm Edition

tickets \$25

on sale January 3rd

The busy holiday season is definitely upon us. As in the past 2 years, we have moved our "Holiday Party" to January to avoid all of the hustle and bustle during December. Now called "Winterfest 2020". Our dinner and dance night will be Saturday, January 18, 2020 in the ARC Main Hall featuring the "Rhythm Edition" Band.

The Rhythm Edition Band is a complete, all variety band. They play music for all ages and styles with several vocalists ready to perform renditions of your favorites.

Rhythm Edition has been performing since 1985 and evolved into one of the top dance bands in Arizona. They perform 50's, 60's, top 40's, classic rock, oldies, country and more.

Gloria Robles, lead female singer, is a powerhouse vocalist with amazing stage presence. The horn section is Ray, playing sax, and Mike on trumpet, followed by Ruzo on drums, Charles playing keys, Duane on Bass, Mark the lead guitar and the leader, Dennis Fike is the male vocalist. This is one band and party you don't want to miss!

Doors will open at 5:30 PM. Tickets are only \$25. The BYOB dinner is catered by ED with an entrée selection of Beef Medallions or Chicken Marsala.

We will be having a "Tribute Table" for the POW/MIA by Ed Mangan. We will have Raffle prizes, baskets and a 50/50 raffle during the evening. Tickets are on sale starting January 3rd, and then on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday 9 AM—11 AM. All can attend.

January 2020							***denotes Color Guard activity
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4 Department Headquarters Open House Noon to 5	
5	6	7	8 Executive Committee Meeting 4 pm at ARC	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15 *** Post General Membership Meeting 4 pm at ARC	16	17	18 *** Winterfest at ARC Doors open at 5 pm	
19 District 12 Meeting Post 91 2 pm	20 Martin Luther King Jr.	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	31	Feb. 1 District 12 Rehab Dinner and Auction Dinner 5 pm at Post 35 in Chandler	

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Sat. Feb. 8 New date for ARC Club Open House 9:30-Noon



DISTRICT 12  
*2020 Rehabilitation Dinner*  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2020  
NO HOST BAR 4PM  
DINNER 5PM  
AUCTION TO FOLLOW

PRIME RIB, MASHED POTATOES & TOSSED GREENS  
PORK TENDERLOIN  
PASTA AND MARINARA SAUCE  
ROLL & BUTTER AND DESSERT

PRESENT THIS TICKET TO RECEIVE YOUR MEAL  
\$15 PER TICKET

DISTRICT 12  
REHABILITATION  
DINNER  
ONE MEAL

NO  
201

Contact Roger Munchbach to purchase tickets for the District 12 Rehab Dinner and Auction  
480-705-9527  
munchaz@msn.com