



AHWATUKEE AMERICAN LEGION POST 64

MARCH 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)

Street Clean-Up for Adopt-a-Street program: Volunteers needed for Sat. 8am to 9:30 am. 7 March. We meet at the Safeway parking lot S/W corner of Elliot Rd. And 48th St. The Legion provides donuts and water, tools, and vests. Send Commander Pete an email if you can attend. See contact information below.

The Honor Guard attended Robert "Bob" Enns' Funeral at the Cave Creek National Cemetery with the Patriot Riders, family, and friends. Afterward there was a Celebration of Life ceremony at the Ahwatukee Country Club in which our Honor Guard also participated.

Next up we will be the Annual Easter Parade. We will be collecting Burial Flags from the widows and widowers to be flown during the parade and returned to the owners after.

Congratulations to Commander Pete for receiving a distinguished award from The National Association of REALTORS--REALTOR EMERITUS STATUS. He earned this by being involved and active in The National and Local Realtor Association for over 42 years.

2. MEMBERSHIP (from First Vice Commander Bob Smithson)

2020 Totals to date: Roster (232), Paid (191), Expired (8), Transfers in (20), New (7), Deceased (6). We are at 92% of our goal of 207 paid members.

Remember that our dues remain at \$30 and will rise to \$35 for the 2021 membership year beginning 1 July. The best way to renew your membership is to go online to www.legion.org/renew.

3. THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU is looking for veterans to be Census Takers. The job includes * Extra income * Flexible hours * Weekly Pay * Paid Training. To join the 2020 Census Team apply online at <https://2020census.gov/jobs>.

4. FROM THE CHAPLAIN: (from Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt)

SICK CALL

Please keep our member Joseph Valle (U.S. Army/Korea) and his wife Mary Lou in your thoughts and prayers.

Please keep our member Bill McLellan (U.S. Army/Korea) in your thoughts and prayers.

MARCH 17th

May the "Luck of the Irish" and "Blessings of Saint Patrick" be with us all, all year long!!

5. MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 19 MEETING:

The meeting was attended by 27 members and guests.

Membership was reported at 190/207 by First Vice Commander Bob Smithson.

Finance Officer Jay Hendrix reported that 175 people attended Winterfest and there was a net profit of \$1747.00. The 2019 taxes for the Post have been filed with the IRS.

Under Sick Call, Bill McLellan has just returned home from the hospital and rehab.

On Feb. 8, the Post participated in the ARC Clubs Open House and received \$55 in poppy donation money.

340 Valentines from Post 64 were delivered to the AZ State Veterans Home in Phoenix on Feb. 14.

Color Guard Commander Dave VonTersch reported on the following: Feb. 9 members attended the Memorial Service for Doc Graves (father-in-law of Rod Green); Feb. 21 will be the morning procession to the National Cemetery and afternoon Celebration of Life for Bob Enns (Honor Guard members will be in attendance at both events); preparations are beginning for the Ahwatukee Easter Parade on April 11; June 13 an Evolution of the Flag program is scheduled with the DAR in Mesa; the San Tan DAR has made initial inquiries into scheduling an Evolution program for the Fall.

Commander Pete Meier again discussed more social get-togethers and Happy Hours for members outside of meetings.

Oratorical Contests will be on Feb. 22 (Area B, Post 27, 9 am) and March 7 (Department, Post 26, 10 am).

The District 12 Family Picnic will be Sunday, March 8, at Post 41 from Noon to 4 pm. The address is 715 S. 2nd Ave., Phoenix. All are welcome, and IT IS FREE!

Boys State registration time is fast approaching. We have no prospects from the Ahwatukee schools, as of this date. School Award information will be coming in a month.

Street Clean Up has been moved to Sat., March 7. Meet at the Safeway parking lot at Elliot and 48th St. Call Commander Pete Meier with questions. (See contact information later in the newsletter.)

Desert Point Garden Club would like to visit a meeting to bring information about purchasing "pavers" for the Ahwatukee Blue Star Memorial at Warner and 48th St.

Guests and members attending their first meeting were introduced.

6. REMEMBER WHEN (Installment #11 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 thru February of 2020.*)

JUNE 2014 TO JUNE 2015

The Department Commander was Andy Jaime. Post Commander was Rod Green. For various reasons there were 3 different Color Guard Commanders this year: Mike McCarron, Tim Davis, and Ed Mangan with John Boyer as his Assistant. The Color Guard presented Colors or other patriotic programs at: a meeting of the Ahwatukee Board of Management; ARC; Carl Hayden High School; Akimel Middle School; Pearl Harbor Day at Sun Devil Stadium; the AZ Run for the Fallen stop at I-10 and Baseline Rd.; the Ahwatukee Car Show; South Mountain Community College; Department Conference in Tucson; Marcos de Niza High School; Centennial Middle School; and the Department Oratorical Contest Finals (which the Post hosted at ARC on March 7, 2015). The Honor Guard was present at funerals or memorial services for Robert Busch, Josephine Oblander, and Keith Danforth.

Bob Smithson took over as the Membership Chairman (First Vice Commander).

On July 3, 2014, the Color Guard was ready to present Colors before the Ahwatukee Red, White, and Boom Fireworks, but sudden violent weather canceled the event. The Post still participated in an indoor picnic at ARC, where there was also a veterans' display table. *The Ahwatukee Foothills News* ran a special article highlighting several Post 64 veterans: Bob Guignard, Ed Mangan, Dave Seward, Bill Shesto, Bob Smithson, Dave VonTersch, and James Woods.

All year, the Post distributed *Korea Reborn* books. The city of Gilbert approved the construction of the AZ Vietnam Wall which Post members actively supported. They continued with their quarterly street clean-up along Elliot Rd. between 48th St. and Equestrian Trail.

Treats were delivered to area schools during American Education Week. The Post assisted the ARC Support the Troops Club with sending 161 boxes in November 2014. Included in those packages were socks and T-shirts donated by the Jr. National Honor Society from Akimel Middle School.

The catered Christmas Party was on December 6, 2014. The Post provided Christmas to a family through Operation Holiday Arizona. The Post also set up a tree at the Phoenix VA Hospital.

April 4, 2015, was the annual Ahwatukee Easter Parade, hot dog picnic, and jazz band concert.

Patriotic Day was held at Akimel Middle School on May 7, 2015. The Americanism Essay Contest topic for the year was "What Freedom Means to My Family". Winning essays were awarded as follows: 6th Grade: Alexandra Strimelle (first place), Adam Cooper, Ty Parker, and Sedona Remus (all honorable mention); and 7th Grade: Tori Roberts (first place), Briana Gutierrez, Stevie Ostman, and Alexander Hawkins (all honorable mention).

On May 25, 2015, the Color Guard marched in the Parade of Colors and presented a wreath during ceremonies at the AZ National Cemetery.

Boys State citizens chosen from Mountain Pointe High School were Travis Hueber and Jacob Tripp, but Jacob did not attend. Brian Cuenca from Desert Vista High School was sponsored by Tempe Post 2.

School Awards were presented to Timothy Liska and Brett Bell (Centennial Middle School), Sevanna Hanson and Nicolo Pia (Akimel Middle School), and Parker Lischwe and Averie Webster (Altadena Middle School). School Awards with \$100 Charlie Roloff Memorial Scholarships were awarded to Maggie Fye and Robert Mathis (Mountain Pointe High School) and Matt Kellogg and Nisha Velu (Desert Vista High School). The scholarship money was donated by Charlie's 3 daughters Diane Laubmeier, Debra Bruns, and Renee McLaughlin.

A Flag Retirement program was conducted in the ARC parking lot on June 14, 2015, and Wanda Wright, Director of the AZ Department of Veterans Services was a guest in the audience of 60 people.

Department Convention was June 25-28, 2015, at the Carefree Resort. Department put forth a re-districting proposal which was soundly defeated. Membership ended the year at 173 of 141, or 123%. (100% was reached in January 2015!)

JUNE 2015 TO JUNE 2016

Department Commander was Billy Ellis. Post Commander was Rod Green. Color Guard Commander was Ed Mangan. The Color Guard posted Colors or presented patriotic programs at Carl Hayden High School; ARC; Akimel Middle School; YOPAS; Mt. Park Senior Living Center; the Pearl Harbor Commemoration at Wesley Bolin Plaza; the AZ Run for the Fallen stop at I-10 and Baseline Rd.; South Mountain Community College; ARC Women's Club; Opening of Special Olympics at ASU; Marcos de Niza High School; Department Oratorical Finals (which Post 64 hosted); LaVita Auditorium in Surprise, AZ; Gold Star Wives; and Centennial Middle School. The Honor Guard attended funerals or memorial services for Gary Zook, Gus Salvo, Thomas Lynch, and Gordon Miner.

The July 3, 2015, Ahwatukee Red, White, and Boom Celebration was held at Pecos Park for the first time. The Post Color Guard had a booth at the carnival and presented Colors before the start of the fireworks.

August 8, 2015, Post members attended a spaghetti dinner hosted by AZ Run for the Fallen at Post 35.

Quarterly street clean-ups continued all year.

The Post supported the ARC Support the Troops Club in November 2015 with sending 150 boxes to deployed servicemen and women. Students from Kyrene Traditional Academy wrote letters, and students from Akimel Middle School once again donated socks and T-shirts for the boxes.

The Post provided Christmas to a family through Operation Holiday Arizona. The Post purchased 4 wreaths for the AZ National Cemetery through Wreaths Across America. Again they set up a Christmas tree at the VA Hospital in Phoenix.

On January 1, 2016, Post 64 dues were increased to \$30 per year to cover increases in the portion of dues going to Department and National. The Post still retained only \$3.00 of each member's dues to go toward the Post's expenses.

Because of an extensive building project at the Ahwatukee Rec Center, the "Christmas" Party was moved back to January 23, 2016, and called a "Holiday" Party. Attendance was so good, and those in attendance enjoyed the late date so much, that it was decided to always have the holiday celebration in January.

On February 13, 2016, members of the Post participated in the Agent Orange Town Hall in Mesa, AZ. During the month of February they made repairs to the flag supports around the parking lot at ARC. Between 30 and 40 US flags are still posted around the property for patriotic holidays and other special events (like the

Department Oratorical Contest and memorial services). On February 20, 2016, the Post 64 Color Guard marched in the Iwo Jima Commemoration Parade in Sacaton, AZ.

On March 6, 2016, the Post 64 Color Guard presented Colors to begin the ARC Grand Re-Opening Celebration following their construction and remodeling project. On March 19, 2016, members attended the ground breaking for the "AZ Wall" in Gilbert, AZ. Commander Rod Green and Terri Williford were part of the "living wall" during the program to show the audience where the final wall would be constructed. March 26, 2016, was the annual Easter Parade, hot dog picnic, and jazz band concert.

In April 2016, the Support the Troops Club and Post 64 sent 150 more packages to deployed servicemen and women.

In May 2016, the Post 64 started to include a monthly "calendar" for members to hang in their homes.

May 9, 2016, was Patriotic Day at Akimel Middle School. The topic of the year's Americanism Essay was "How do we keep Lincoln's promise to our veterans and their families?" The 6th grade students receiving prizes were: Rebecca Adricula (first place) and Anabella Wright, Bailey Payan, and Kiera Gunther (all honorable mention).

Boys State citizens from Mountain Pointe High School were Ryan Kern and Logan White, and from Desert Vista High School were Seth Grieser and Douglas Sellers.

School Awards were presented to David Palosika and Molly Harrison (Centennial Middle School), Hogan Miller and Amelia Palacheck (Akimel Middle School), and David Utagawa and Olivia Evans (Altadena Middle School). School Awards with \$100 Charlie Roloff Memorial Scholarships were awarded to Dillon Swann and Madison Coffman (Mountain Pointe High School) and Michael Kolodziej and Bethany Henthorne (Desert Vista High School). The scholarship money was again donated by the Roloff sisters.

May 30, 2016, the Color Guard marched in the Parade of Colors and presented a wreath at Memorial Day services at the AZ National Cemetery.

June 14, 2016, the Color Guard conducted a flag retirement program in the ARC parking lot.

Department Convention was June 23-26, 2016, at the Carefree Resort. Membership ended the year at 181 of 172 (105%).

7. 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

RE-ELECT



JUDI BEISCHEL
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

" THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR EXPERIENCE "

2018 - PRESENT - NEC

2014 - 2018 - ALTERNATE NEC

2013 - 2014 - DEPARTMENT CMDR.

2012 - ARIZONA VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

2009 - NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE GRADUATE



NATIONAL COMMANDER
 BILL OXFORD



NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE
 KEVIN BARTLETT

26th Annual Sentimental Dreams

Dance to the Big Band Sounds of the 30's and 40's

Music performed by
"Sentimental Swing Orchestra"
 (20 piece Orchestra)

March 7th, 2020
 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM

\$15.00 per person

Purchase tickets at the door
 or advanced purchase at the
American Legion Post # 2
 2125 S Industrial Park Ave
 Tempe, Arizona
 Ph 480-967-2968



*dancing
 is like
 dreaming
 with your feet!*
 -Constance



Proceeds to Benefit
 The American Legion Boys State Program &
 The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Program

March 2020 ***denotes Color Guard event						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Department Oratorical Finals Post 26 at 505 W. 2nd Ave. Mesa Street Clean Up 8 am Meet in the Safeway parking lot, Elliot and 48th St.
8 Daylight Saving Begins / Int'l. Women's Day District 12 Picnic at Post 41 715 S. 2nd Ave. Phoenix Noon It's Free!	9	10	11 Executive Committee Meeting 4 pm at ARC	12	13	14
15 American Legion 101st Birthday District 12 Meeting at Post 58 2 pm 16837 E. Parkview Ave. Fountain Hills	16	17 Saint Patrick's Day	18 General Membership Meeting 4 pm at ARC *** General Membership Meeting 4 pm at ARC	19 Start of Spring (Spring Equinox)	20	21
22	23	24	25 Congressional Medal of Honor Day	26	27	28 Earth Hour
29	30	31	UPCOMING EVENTS: Sat. April 11, 2020 Ahwatukee Easter Parade ***			