



**AHWATUKEE AMERICAN LEGION POST 64**  
September 2023  
<http://www.americanlegionpost64.com>

**Commander—Brenda Smull**

It is my honor to serve as your Commander and I was pleased with the positive energy and turnout for our September Business Meeting. We have good momentum as we focus in on our primary mission of **Veterans Helping Veterans**. We shared officer reports of how we are making a positive impact in the lives of those who have served our country.

This past weekend, September 17th, I represented Post 64 at the District 12 Business Meeting along with our First Vice Commander, Al Hunter, and our Auxiliary President, Darlene Hunter. I learned a lot about the training, programs, and opportunities that the American Legion provides at the Department and District levels. I was impressed with the professionalism and strong leadership of D12 Commander Gerald Valle who joined us at our member meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup> and conducted the official installation of Post officers. We also presented Peter Meier with the Excellence in Leadership Award for his dedication to service as Commander for the past five years.

We have a number of new events and programs planned for our post in the coming months including the Autumn Fest Fundraiser/Dance on October 14<sup>th</sup> and the Unit 64 Auxiliary Charter Party and Dinner on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Our post is now a member of the Ahwatukee Chamber of Commerce and will be participating in monthly networking meetings and community activities. This will help us get the word out to the community that we have a dedicated Service officer and team to help veterans and their families.

It warmed my heart that we had two guests at our September meeting and they have decided to join our Post. We need more of this and I believe that we are in a good position to reach more people with our message and our mission.

As we recited in the opening of our monthly meeting last night,

“For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes...”

I look forward to seeing every member who is able to attend our events, giving them a warm handshake and thanking them for their service to our country.



Commander Brenda Smull



## September 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes—Roddy Charlton

**Commander Brenda Smull** opened the meeting with greetings to twenty three members and guests and recognition of **District 12 Commander Gerald Valle**. New **Post Information Officer David Green** was introduced and welcomed to the Post. The colors were pre-posted. **Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt** provided an Invocation. **Adjutant Roddy Charlton** conducted the POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony. Members and guests recited the Pledge of Allegiance. **Commander Brenda Smull** recited the American Legion Preamble to the Constitution. **Adjutant Roddy Charlton** conducted a Roll Call of Officers with all present with the exception of the **Sgt-At-Arms Mark Shillinger**.

**Officers Reports:** **Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt** provided an update on post members. **Finance Officer Jay Hendrix** discussed creating a budget for all Post planned expenditures and start tracking budget to actual funds distributed. This is in accordance with Post 64 By-Laws Article 6 and Article 7. **First Vice Commander Al Hunter** provided an update to Post Membership. We are tracking at 37% renewal of Post members. He now has access and is working within the **MyLegion.org** website to manage Post membership tasks. **Service Officer Craig Annis** has completed Post Service Officer (PSO) required training. He discussed his efforts with **Information Officer David Green** to support a veteran in need in Mariana, AZ by providing much needed food. He discussed the urgency to help local veterans who are in great need. He has started an out-reach program for the Post. **Adjutant Roddy Charlton** discussed the filing of the 2023 Annual Report with the Arizona Corporation Commission. We are current and in good standing and will protect all Post members from personal law suits when supporting Post activities. He discussed the Post IRS Including Letter to the National Headquarters/National Judge Advocate to include Post 64 in the national listing to the IRS for a blanket tax exemption and maintain our Section 501(c)(19) tax exempt status. He ended by reviewing the American Legion Student Awards Program and the Post participation and seeking one Post member to be the School Coordinator for Altadena Middle School. See Adjutant report for additional information. He discussed the need for additional Post member support of Color Guard and Honor Guard, with a summary of critical activities that are supported. A new transfer Post member Ron Raucci (Army Vietnam Era) discussed interest in becoming a Color Guard/Honor Guard member.

**New Business:** **Commander Brenda Smull** reviewed Post near term events with Veterans Social Mixer at the ARC on September 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM, Autumn Fest Fundraiser/Dance at the ARC on October 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM and the Unit 64 Auxiliary Charter Party at the ARC on October 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00-6:00 PM with the Monthly Post Meeting.

**Closing Prayer:** A prayer was provided by Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt and meeting was adjourned.

**Installation of Post Officers:** **District 12 Commander Gerald Valle** conducted the Installation of Post Officers for 2023 -2024.

**Refreshments** were provided by **Second Vice Commander Pete Meier and Information Officer David Green**, Thank You.



## First Vice Commander—Al Hunter

Now that summer's over and everybody has returned from their vacations it's time to welcome you all back. It's a great time for again enjoying each other's company but it's also a time of great challenges. Post 64 has enjoyed a long of strong membership involvement which made possible a solid reputation of servicing our mission. However, times are now dictating new challenges that must be met in order to continue that success. Currently membership levels have been falling over the past several years. It's not unique to our post but also our sister veteran's organization, the VFW, and the entire service group community. There are several key factors at play including changes in our country's social dynamics, perceptions both external public and internal membership of who we are and what we do among others. Decrease in active membership adversely affects an organization's ability to achieve its service goals and impairs its leadership development. Aging is a major challenge to the function and growth of the organization. As members age the normal health issues begins to affect the member's ability to maintain an active role on the organization forcing either the younger members to carry the burden of the organization's activity and leadership commitments which results in their burning out.

During the past several months we have been working on a realistic membership growth strategy that identifies where we are, how we got here and what we need to overcome our challenges. Action has already been initiated. First, we have clarified our mission, that of *Vets Helping Vets*, emphasizing the notion that as Veterans both Legion and non-Legion members, we are all part of a large family who have shared many experiences good and bad. Each year a larger number of Vets find themselves in dire situations both mentally and physically. Many find themselves homeless and helpless. *Vets helping Vets* should be our rally cry to build the passion that fuels our efforts. Next, we are completing the analysis on how we got here. Next is to successfully identify and enact the solutions to successfully revitalize our membership growth. As we travel this road towards success, we will be updating members as to our progress via presentations and our monthly newsletter.



Three generations of Post 64 members:  
Craig Annis, David Green,  
Brenda Smull and Pete Meier

## Service Officer—Craig Annis

David Green and I picked up some thermal thermometers and face masks that were donated to Post 64.

Helping a vet in need. The Post collected grocery items and a \$25.00 Safeway gift card. These items were delivered to the Tucson area on Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. The veteran was VERY appreciative of our help!

With the help of David Green, we explored VA Center in Phoenix. David has had many trips and experiences with the facility. It went well. I now know where to enter and park.

I remain available and open to assist anyone who feels concerned, needs a little help or direction. You can contact me at 480-255-5622 or email @ [craigannis@ymail.com](mailto:craigannis@ymail.com)

## **Adjutant—Roddy Charlton**

### **Arizona Corporation Commission /2023 Annual Report**

The 2023 Annual Report has been filed for Post 64 with the Arizona Corporation Commission. We are in good standing as a Domestic Nonprofit Corporation. Our Entity ID number is 16323020 and I sign as the Statuary Agent. The purpose of being incorporated is to protect individual members from being held responsible for the Post. Basic Example: we hold a function and someone is injured. They can only sue the Post for damages and not the member individually. Without incorporation individual members could be sued.

### **Post IRS Inclusion Letter**

I have filed a new Post IRS Inclusion Letter to American Legion National Headquarters. This letter is sent to the National Judge Advocate for our Post to be included in National American Legion listing to the IRS for a blanket tax exemption. This will allow our Post to maintain our Section 501(c)(19) tax exempt status. This is to update our documents we have on file.

### **American Legion Student Awards**

Our Post will continue this year with the American Legion Student Awards Program as we have done in the past number of years. We provide awards to two students selected by each school's nominating committees. One boy and one girl are selected from each school based on six qualities: Courage, Honor, Leadership, Patriotism, Scholarship and Service. The awards provided are a certificate, bronze medallion and for the high school students each receiving a \$200 cash award. We support four schools in our area and have a Post member School Coordinator assigned to each school (Mountain Point High School/Second Vice Commander Pete Meier; Desert Vista High School/Adjutant Roddy Charlton; Centennial Middle School/Member John Augustyn and Altadena Middle school/need School Coordinator.) I am looking for a Post member to take on this responsibility to support Altadena Middle school. If interested or questions please contact me at [WRCinAZ@aol.com](mailto:WRCinAZ@aol.com).



### **Post Information/Webmaster—David Green**



For the start of our 2023-2024 fiscal year, Post 64 hit the ground running with an amazing start of our renewed focus, *Veterans Helping Veterans*. The officers of the post have new exciting ideas, events fundraisers and more! While still encompassing the traditions/standards of American Legion, check out our updated website @ [www.americanlegionpost64.com](http://www.americanlegionpost64.com).

### **Autumn Fest Fundraiser Dance**

Leading into the fiscal year, the second Post function of the year, **Autumn Fest Fundraiser**, will be held on **October 14<sup>th</sup> at the ARC from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM (Admission: \$20)**. There will be a live band, *The Sound of Foster*, drinks, and refreshments. The Post's Auxiliary will be holding a raffle) at the Fundraiser with all donations going to the benefit of veterans within our local community.

To reserve/purchase tickets now. Please email Brenda @ [bsmull@me.com](mailto:bsmull@me.com)

### **Monthly Business Meeting**

On **October 18th**, our **monthly meeting** being held at **4:00 PM** and followed by the **Auxiliary Charter Party Dinner** at **5:00 PM**. All veterans and their families are welcome to attend all events.

## Chaplain—Rebecca Schmidt

Almighty Father, we thank you for so many things, above all our great United States and its many material, but above all spiritual blessings. Help us not to take them for granted. Many of our men and women have sacrificed their lives and their health to preserve the freedom that our nation stands for. May their efforts not have been in vain. Help us to daily reflect on all that we have to be thankful for and to praise you daily in our prayers for being so good to all of us. Amen.

### WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

On the 1st of July member Mike McCarron passed away at his home in Virginia. Mike served in the U.S. Navy and Naval Reserves from 1965-1971. Mike traveled extensively during his 41 years at IBM. Please remember Mike's wife Lorraine and their family in your prayers.

### SPECIAL DATES IN OCTOBER

- Oct 7 -- Afghanistan War Began (2001)
- Oct 9 -- Columbus Day (observed)
- Oct 12 -- Columbus Day
- Oct 13 -- U.S. Navy Established (1775)
- Oct 23 -- Grenada Campaign Began (1983)
- Oct 27 -- Navy Day
- Oct 31 -- Halloween

### RAFFLE ITEMS NEEDED/AUTUMN FEST (Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>)

This great event will also include a 50/50 raffle and a gift cards/items raffle. We would sincerely appreciate additional items and cards! We are a 501(c)(19) organization and donations are tax deductible. I can give you a letter of request for vendors, plus receipts. You can leave gift cards in the Legion folder at the ARC desk, or give them to one of us at the raffle table at the event. Many thanks!



11/04/2023 - ARC Open House

11/11/2023 - Veterans Day

11/15/2023 - Monthly Member Meeting- 4:00 PM at ARC

11/18/2023 - Arts and Craft Fair – 9:00 AM-2:00 PM at ARC

11/29/2023 - Veteran Social Mixer- 5:00 PM at Native Grill (5030 E. Ray Rd)

12/20/2023 - Monthly Member Meeting and Holiday Party- 4:00 PM at Native Grill

**SAVE THE DATE**



### Excellence in Leadership Award

Awarded to Pete Meier for his dedication to service as Commander of Post 64 for the past 5 years.



### **PRESIDENT – Darlene Hunter**

Auxiliary Unit 64 has reunited after going dark for the summer. Our upcoming events center on assisting the Post with their Autumn Fest function on October 14<sup>th</sup>, where we will be facilitating the dessert table and enjoying an evening of music, food and fun. Two of our members, Judy Steffen and Ann Schminke, have volunteered as raffle ticket sellers. Barbara Augustyn has volunteered to embroider “AMERICAN LEGION” on the new ticket aprons and give them an up-scale appearance.

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 PM – 6:00PM, the Auxiliary and Post will join together to present our Auxiliary Charter Celebration, following by the Post meeting. We will be joined by District President, Monica Stein, and District Secretary, Cindy Queen. The former will formally install our officers. A dinner of appetizers, desserts and drinks follows thereafter.

Further action will be forthcoming on the issue of Poppies and the Jewish War Veterans group. Look for more information these and other possible fundraising format(s).

Two new members have joined our ranks; namely, Sheila Roberts and Janice Hecht. Welcome to Unit 64!

One and all...now and always...in service to God, our country, its veterans, and their family.



# October 2023

## American Legion Post 64



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 <i>Executive Meeting ARC 4:00 pm</i>	12 	13	14 
15	16	17	18 <i>General Meeting ARC Main Hall 4:00 pm</i>	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 	28
29	30	31 	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Celebrate Auxiliary Charter Party (after General meeting) on 10/18/2023</b></p>  </div>			

### Post Officers Elect

Commander	Brenda Smull	303-301-4429	<a href="mailto:bsmull@me.com">bsmull@me.com</a>
First Vice Commander	Al Hunter	480-326-4656	<a href="mailto:alhunter50@yahoo.com">alhunter50@yahoo.com</a>
Second Vice commander	Pete Meier	602-690-3361	<a href="mailto:petehmeier@gmail.com">petehmeier@gmail.com</a>
Adjutant	Roddy Charlton	480-993-6980	<a href="mailto:wrcinaz@aol.com">wrcinaz@aol.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	Craig Annis	480-255-5622	<a href="mailto:cragannis@yahoo.com">cragannis@yahoo.com</a>
Sergeant-At-Arms	Mark Shillinger		<a href="mailto:markshillinger@hotmail.com">markshillinger@hotmail.com</a>
Information Officer	David Green	928-830-0085	<a href="mailto:david.a.greenjr@gmail.com">david.a.greenjr@gmail.com</a>



**American Legion  
Post 64**

Presents

# **AUTUMN • FEST**

**Saturday • October 14**

**6:30-9:30 PM • Doors open at 6 PM**

**Music • Food • Fun – Just \$20**

**Tickets sold 9-11 AM daily (not Sundays)**

**Starting Saturday, September 30 thru October 13**



Music by

***Foster the Sound!***

**A little bit country ... A little bit rock.**