



AHWATUKEE AMERICAN LEGION POST 64

September 2023

<http://www.americanlegionpost64.com>

Commander—Brenda Smull

The year is off to a good start with several productive planning and strategy meetings with the Post's and Auxiliary's Officers. We are refocusing our efforts on the primary mission of the American Legion which is *"to enhance the well-being of America's veterans, their families, and our communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness"*.

Our goals and objectives for the year will support this mission and provide more opportunities, events, and programs that directly assist veterans and their families in our local communities.

Post 64 is fortunate to have a multi-generational slate of officers with a dedicated Service Officer, Craig Annis, trained and ready to help. Our new 1st Vice Commander, Al Hunter, brings strong leadership experience from the Lions Club. I have also appointed a new Post Information Officer, David Green, who served in Iraq in 2008-09 and will take point on our website. I am extremely grateful for the continued support and expertise of our Adjutant- Roddy Charlton, Chaplain- Rebecca Schmidt, Finance Officer- Jay Hendrix, SGT at Arms- Mark Shillinger, and 2nd Vice Commander- Pete Meier.

We are planning the next 10 months' events and programs with an eye to bringing in a diverse roster of guest speakers which will briefly present at our monthly meetings on topics which are relevant and meaningful to our members. Important issues such as: 1) navigating the VA, 2) high veteran suicide rates, 3) buddy checks and wellness visits for our in need comrades, and 4) assisting homeless veterans in Arizona will be reviewed by the Executive Council and presented to the membership in the form of an Interest Survey. We want to know what the members of Post 64 want and need.

New ideas and brainstorming sessions are also being conducted to determine how we can best fundraise in 2023-2024. We are also increasing our Public Relations and Marketing efforts with the local news media and online social media channels.

Our mantra this coming year is: **Veterans Helping Veterans** and the officers of Post 64 are gearing up to ensure that we:

- 1) **Engage** with strong connections with our existing members.
- 2) **Expand** by building bridges in the community.
- 3) **Retain** by strengthen our social fabric.

We have a goal increase the membership percentage of the Generation X and Millennials veterans which is currently at 22% of the total.

The two events planned for September will kick us off on this mission.

We hope to see you on 9/20 for our monthly membership meeting when we will conduct Officer Installations and hear from our District 12 Commander, Gerald Valle.

We also invite you and a guest or 3 to join in the fun and merriment of the **Veteran Social Mixer** on 9/27 at 5PM at the ARC.



Adjutant—Roddy Charlton

Installation of Post Officers

Having completed the Post 64 Officers election, at the first fall meeting the Post Adjutant installs all Post Officers. As part of the swearing in ceremony, each Officer states "I do solemnly pledge myself, to preform faithfully and impartially, the duties of the office in the American Legion, I am about to assume." It is the responsibility of each elected Post Officer to know, understand and execute their specific Post duties and responsibilities. The successful accomplishment of Post programs and activities depends on their performance to the duties of each office. As Post members your duty is to aid them in every way, and to help them keep the American Legion faithful to its principles and ideals.



Service Officer—Craig Annis

Hi Legionnaires, my name is Craig Annis, newly elected Service Officer for Ahwatukee Post 64.

Completed Training with Certificate, July, 2023. Completed Training ASIST "Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training" with Certificate, August, 2023. Lot's to learn and so short a time!

My Contact information is below....feel free to call or email me with any questions or concerns regarding your American Legion Service Concerns or Issues regarding the VA.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Know where your DD214 is For Sure, and advise Family! It is a **MUST** Have for all VA programs! If you don't have or cannot find, we can assist you in getting another!!



Post Information/Webmaster—David Green

As the new Post Information Officer & Webmaster at American Legion Post 64, I feel I should introduce myself. My name is **David Green**, I'm a disabled veteran that is confined to a wheelchair. I have a bachelor's degree in the science of business and have worked for several different companies including Charles Schwab and Chase Bank. I served in the US Army from 2007-2011 as a 19D with a deployment from 2008-2009 in support of OIF. I additionally served in the Arizona National Guard from 2011-2013 as a 92Y. I was just married in April 2023! Amanda, my wife, and I have a total of 3 children between us, ages 13, 12, and 9 with all of them being girls! I'm excited to bring my experiences and knowledge to Post 64 and will be working on a new website design and layout! I will also be working to improve communication and continue to provide information about the post.

This month we have 2 events to be excited about and plenty of chances to come meet me!

Our first being on **September 20, 2023**, for our monthly membership meeting at **4:00 PM** when we will conduct Officer Installations and hear from our District 12 Commander, Gerald Valle. This will be my first actual Post meeting; I am excited to meet all the Post 64 members and community members that come to the event.

The **Veteran Social Mixer** is the second event planned for the month on **September 27, 2023**, at **5:00 PM** at the ARC. We invite you and a guest or 3 to join us for the exciting event. This being my first Social Mixer, I hope to meet new people and see new faces there. We also invite you, a guest, and any others to join us for excitement and refreshments.

Chaplain—Rebecca Schmidt

Oh Lord, Ruler of nations, protect this great nation upon which You have showered Your blessings without number. Please Lord set right that which is wrong, and bring together what is divided that we may live under one glorious flag with charity towards all and with malice towards none in a spirit of unity and a bond of peace. We are truly grateful for Your help in days past. We humbly ask You to be with us still as we face the problems of the present and the difficulties of the uncertain future. In Your holy name we pray, Amen.

SPECIAL DATES IN SEPTEMBER

- Sep 2, V-J Day (Japan signed formal surrender, 1945)
- Sep 4, Labor Day
- Sep 11, Patriot Day, and National Day of Service and Remembrance
- Sep 14, "Star Spangled Banner" written by Francis Scott Key (1814)
- Sep 15, POW/MIA Recognition Day, and Rosh Hashanah Begins
- Sep 17, U.S. Constitution Approved (1787)
- Sep 18, U.S. Air Force Established (1947)
- Sep 24, Gold Star Mother's Day, and Yom Kippur Begins

SICK CALL

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers our members, their families, and all those who are ill, recovering, in hospitals and rehab, and need special care. Dear Lord, please bless them and make them well! And Dear Lord, please watch over us all!

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Our dear friend and member Alice Maynard passed away on 20 August 2023. For our Post, Alice was a long time member of our Honor Guard. She was also a most amazing Refreshment Chairperson, being "front and center" at every Post and ARC event. Plus so much more! Alice's funeral service was with her family in Illinois, and a much deserved Memorial Service is being planned at the ARC for the near future. God Bless! Miss you!



Pete Meier, Alice Maynard, Brenda Smull



Remembering Alice

By Brenda Smull

The Ahwatukee community mourns the loss of a great friend, teammate, and citizen. Alice Maynard passed away on August 20, 2023, and will be remembered as someone who was always busy helping other people. Whether it was for charity or fundraising events at the Ahwatukee Recreation Center or Color Guard services with the American Legion Post 64, Alice was the embodiment of **Selfless Service**.

As the Commander of the Ahwatukee American Legion Post, I honor and salute Alice for the countless hours of support and sacrifice she gave to so many active-duty military members and veterans. She never stood idle and actively volunteered in numerous groups including: Support the Troops, American Legion Auxiliary and Color Guard, Ahwatukee Rec Center, RD-1 sub HOA, Girl Scouts, and others.

Alice moved to Ahwatukee from the Illinois in 1999 following the death of her husband, Harold L. Maynard, who was a Marine veteran and served in the Korean War. For over two decades she was active in the Ahwatukee Recreation Center (ARC) activities and enjoyed swimming, water volleyball, and lawn bowling.

I first met Alice in 2018 when I joined the American Legion Post at the ARC and was immediately impressed with her kindness and generosity at every monthly membership meeting. She always made sure that the attendees of our events had a full spread of food, desserts, and drinks. I especially loved it when she made her deviled eggs for special occasions.

Alice donated her time and her talents to make the world a better place for those in need and those who served their country. She participated in Honor Guard flag folding ceremonies that gave the solemn respect to deceased veterans and their families.

Words can't adequately describe the impact of the loss of Alice Maynard to her family and friends and it is my hope that this article provides some sense of the large amount of respect and admiration many felt for her. As someone who has been active in volunteer service organizations for decades, Alice was the most loyal and dedicated person I have ever had the pleasure of working with. Alice was a patriot and always spoke her mind. She was passionate and caring, fierce and determined.

As someone 30 years her junior, I greatly admired Alice's energy and often wondered where it came from. Perhaps it was her sense of Selfless Service.

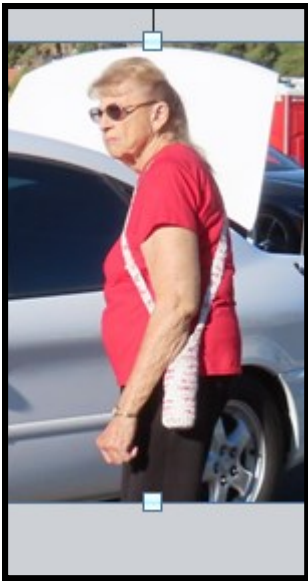
All I know for sure that is Alice's contributions to our organizations and community will be sorely missed, fondly remembered, and greatly appreciated.

RIP Alice

July 30, 1938- August 20, 2023



Alice Maynard
American Legion
Support The Troops
Easter Parade Hot Dogs



Treasurer—Jay Hendrix

As of August 16, 2003 the balance in our checking account is \$9,177.01. We are still receiving dues from members, so this will continue to enhance our account. There are no outstanding bills due at this time.

We will be planning some events for the following year so to continue our profits centers to be use for; Support The Troops, School Scholarships, Vets helping Vets, Easter Parade, Social for Vets, Spring Dinner, to name a few.

If anyone has some input as it relates to Donations or assisting Vets, please send us an email or call one of the board members (see list below calendar).



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 64 Ahwatukee

PRESIDENT – Darlene Hunter

Welcome back, ALAers!

Hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and is rested up, as we look to structuring our activities for the balance of the year.

Besides attending State Convention at the end of June, I also attended the first of six District 12 Auxiliary meetings on July 30th. The majority of the meeting dealt with establishing District organizational positions with one tidbit of information relative to the units: District will hold an annual BBQ Picnic on March 9, 2024 – location to be determined. We're asked to bring 2 cakes (for a Cake Walk) and 1 bag of candy for a piñata (entertainment for the kids). We'll discuss this later on. On January 21, 2024, I'm required to present a Unit Report on our activities (past, present and future).

The Post intends to hold an official Auxiliary Charter Night Celebration on October 18th in honor of our formation. Further details to come.

I'll be meeting with the Post Commander in late August to determine where (1) our assistance will be required by the Post on their functions and (2) devising shared fundraising activities of benefit to both the Post and our Unit. Further details to come.

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



September 2023

American Legion Post 64



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 
3	4 	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 	12	13 <i>Executive Meeting ARC 4:00 pm</i>	14	15 	16
17	18  	19	20 <i>General Meeting ARC Main Hall 4:00 pm</i>	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 <i>Veterans Social Mixer Main Hall 5:00 pm</i> 	28	29	30

Post Officers Elect

Commander	Brenda Smull	303-301-4429	bsmull@me.com
First Vice Commander	Al Hunter	480-326-4656	alhunter50@yahoo.com
Second Vice commander	Pete Meier	602-690-3361	petehmeier@gmail.com
Adjutant	Roddy Charlton	480-993-6980	wrcinaz@aol.com
Finance Officer	Jay Hendrix	480-831-9121	jayhendrix@cox.net
Chaplain	Rebecca Schmidt	602-292-8401	rebeccacinaz@aol.com
Service Officer	Craig Annis	480-255-5622	cragannis@yahoo.com
Sergeant-At-Arms	Mark Shillinger		markshillinger@hotmail.com
Information Officer	David Green	928-830-0085	david.a.greenjr@gmail.com



See you in September!

We have two great events planned for our members, auxiliary, and all veterans in the Phoenix area.

Join us for our Member Meeting on Wednesday 9/20 at 4PM.

Veteran Social Mixer is on 9/27 at 5PM.
Music, games and light refreshments.

Both events are free and open to the public.
Guests are welcome.

Location: Ahwatukee Recreation Center (ARC)
5001 E Cheyenne Dr. Phoenix, AZ





Important Info on VA Benefits

This email was sent to our new Post 64 Service Officer, Craig Annis, from U.S. Representative Greg Stanton.

At a recent town hall in Guadalupe, I was joined by the VA Secretary to spread the word on the importance of August 9 for veterans to sign up for PACT Act benefits. This is the largest health care and benefits expansion in VA history, and I want every eligible veteran to take advantage of it and receive the benefits they've earned.

Although there is no deadline to file a PACT Act claim, **veterans who begin the filing process by August 9, 2023, can receive benefits backdated to August 10, 2022.**

Veterans with toxic exposures and veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era are entitled to expanded benefits under the PACT Act, and nearly 3.5 million vets who were not eligible before are now able to claim their hard-earned benefits—but the number of veterans who've applied is far lower than the number who are eligible.

Go to va.gov/pact to learn more and begin the application process. The long list of presumptive conditions covered under the PACT Act includes:

Asthma (diagnosed after service), Brain cancer, Chronic bronchitis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), Chronic rhinitis, Chronic sinusitis, Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis, Emphysema, Gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Glioblastoma, Granulomatous disease, Head cancer of any type, High blood pressure (hypertension), Interstitial lung disease (ILD), Kidney cancer, Lymphomatic cancer of any type, Lymphoma of any type, Melanoma, Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS), Neck cancer, Pancreatic cancer, Pleuritis, Pulmonary fibrosis, Reproductive cancer of any type, including cervical, ovarian, uterine, vaginal, and vulvar, Respiratory (breathing- related) cancer of any type, Sarcoidosis

Even those whose application was denied before the passage of the PACT Act for one of the presumptive conditions listed above will be able to receive benefits if they apply now.

I encourage you to spread the word about this even if you are not a veteran yourself, check in with the veterans you know, and make sure they have the resources they need.

My office has helped thousands of Arizonans dealing with federal agencies, and the Department of Veteran Affairs is one of those agencies. If you need help, you can open a case with us at stanton.house.gov/help or give us a call at (602) 956-2463.

This legislation is the largest expansion of VA benefits in our history, and it's delivering real results for Arizona's veterans. I'll continue to work to deliver for the men and women who have served our country in uniform.

Sincerely,
Greg Stanton
Member of Congress