



# AHWATUKEE AMERICAN LEGION POST 64

February 2024

<http://www.americanlegionpost64.com>

## Commander—Brenda Smull

Post 64's energy and enthusiasm are rising. Our events and activities are increasing the positive engagement of members, veterans and their families.

The year started off with a beautiful Remembering Alice Maynard tribute complete with Colorguard flag posting, story sharing, singing, and the serving of hotdogs. Honoring our members who have passed on is an important part of our culture.

Attendance and engagement at monthly members meetings continues to grow as we are seeing many new and returning faces. The active sharing of ideas and opportunities to volunteer to help fellow veterans, students, and our local community is more active than ever.

Speaking of helping veterans- a small team of members (Craig Annis, Mark Shillinger, Rod Green, Roddy Charlton and Pete Meier) assisted fellow veteran Larry Lytch in the transfer of a donated bed to the Phoenix PVA (Paralyzed Veterans of America). This operation was a true effort that benefited many people.

Additional community service activities by our members includes an investigative field trip to the PVA in downtown Phoenix and an 8-person clean-up crew for the Adopt-A-Street project.

Planning activities are in full swing for our annual Springfest dinner dance to be held in the ARC on March 9 and the Event Leader Jay Hendrix could use help from additional volunteers to assist with auction and raffle items. This is one of our main fundraising events and we are working to gain corporate sponsors to help reduce the cost of the band and food. Please let us know if you have any ideas or contacts for local companies who can help in this area.

I am excited and optimistic about the positive direction that our post is moving in and I plan to lead early Officer nominations and training for the upcoming elections at the end of Q2.

Please contact me at [bsmull@me.com](mailto:bsmull@me.com) if you have any questions, comments or recommendations for our Post. Thank you.



## 01/17/2024 Meeting Minutes — Roddy Charlton

**Commander Brenda Smull** opened the meeting to 23 members and guests. **Adjutant Roddy Charlton** provided an Invocation as **Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt** was out ill. **Sgt-at-Arms Mark Shillinger** conducted the POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony. **Commander Brenda Smull** led the Pledge of Allegiance. **Commander Brenda Smull** asked to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the 12/20/2023 Post meeting as posted in the newsletter. A vote to accept the minutes as printed was made and a second to approve the December Meeting Minutes as published. **Commander Brenda Smull** made the opening announcements: The Celebration of Life for member Alice Maynard was held at the ARC on 01/07/2024 and was well done and well attended. Thanks to **Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt** and all who supported this activity. **Bev Shillinger** has volunteered to be the new **Refreshment Chairperson**, thank you. The Adopt-a-Street clean-up will be conducted on Saturday 01/07/2024 at 8:00 AM, meeting at the parking lot S/W corner of 48th Street and Elliot. A sign-up sheet is at the entrance table. A Post Officer Nominating Committee will be formed and meet in March for Post Officer positions. The Post Springfest will be held on 03/09/2024 at the ARC. **Finance Officer Jay Hendrix** will take the lead to coordinate this event.

**Officer Reports:** **First Vice Commander Al Hunter** discussed our current membership at 158 members. We have 130 members paid, so we are ahead of schedule. We need to continue to engage Post members to participate in activities and fundraisers. **Service Officer Craig Annis** has continued to support the Buddy Check Program. He has made direct phone contact with 15 new Post members. He reported on a donated medical bed from an American Legion member in Mesa. The bed and lift were picked up on 01/15/2024 by a team of Post members (Rod Green, Mark Shillinger, Roddy Charlton, Pete Meier, and Craig Annis) and delivered to the Paralyzed Veterans of American (PVA) in downtown Phoenix. Good work to all who supported this important task. **Information Officer David Green** presented a new flyer he created for the Post Veterans Social Mixer. The next Mixer is to be held on 01/31/2024 at 4:00pm at the Native Grill on Ray Road. The last Post Social Mixer was very well attended and brought in new and old Post members. **Sgt-at-Arms Mark Shillinger** discussed near term Color Guard events including leading the Ahwatukee Easter Parade. **Adjutant Roddy Charlton** discussed the Transfer of Members using the Member Data Form (MDF) and new Member-at-Large Officer position. See Adjutant Report for details.

**Adjutant Roddy Charlton** provided a closing prayer and condolences for the passing of Lary Brown's son Sean. **Refreshment Chairperson Bev Shillinger** provided refreshments. Thank You.

### Adjutant—Roddy Charleton

#### Member - at - Large

The Executive Board has approved new Board Member position: Member-at-Large. **Past Post Commander Rod Green** has been voted in and will assume this position. This person provides a liaison between the Executive Board and General Membership. This person may sit on certain committees, and groups for collaboration with other outside organizations. Specific tasks and duties may be assigned by the Executive Board and contribute to the Board decision-making process. I am in the process of developing a description of Member-at-Large for Post review and inclusion in Post Bylaws at next revision this year.

#### Post Transfers

We continue to build Post membership with transfers from other posts including Post 100 (no assigned post / holding). The **Member Data Form (MDF)** must be completed and signed by the transferring American Legion member. Of critical importance is the correct 9 digit member ID number. This number is located on our membership card. If unable to find the member ID number, American Legion Customer Service may provide assistance (800-433-3318). Completed **Member Data Forms (MDF)** are reviewed / signed by the Post Adjutant and sent to American Legion Headquarters. Questions or help required in completing this form / process, please contact me.

## **First Vice Commander—Al Hunter**

Good news is that our active membership has reached 158 with renewals and new members paid dues at 131. One more renewal/new member places us achieving the goal set by the district. Since we have several new members and Post 100 transfers who are in process, we will easily exceed our Commander's goal of 136 by the end of this month.

We have had discussions between us and the Jewish War Veterans Copper State Post 619, located at Sun Lakes, regarding a partnership. For those who do not have knowledge about this group, the Jewish War Veterans was established during the American Civil War. Post 619's sole mission is to support hospitalized, homeless and at-risk veterans in need in the Phoenix metro area regardless of religious affiliation. During our discussions we found both our organization missions are very much aligned. They are heavily involved in fund raising distributing Poppies at several shopping centers, especially Fry's food centers. They need our assistance manning these locations which they are offering to share donations collected with the amount dependent on the number of our members participating. They have offered to supply assistance from their members to aid in our activities. Per our agreement, 2 of their members have agreed to join our post (membership is in process) with Commander Brenda, myself and Auxiliary President Darlene joining their organization (we have completed the membership process). It is all about Vets helping Vets.

## **Chaplain—Rebecca Schmidt**

Dear Heavenly Father, in this month of Presidents, we give 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 for a special blessing. And, Dear Lord, for the good of us all, we reverently ask that "God Bless America." Amen.

### **WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY**

Sean Brown, Lary's son, passed away after a long illness. Please keep Lary and family in your prayers. And Dear Lord, please keep Sean in your loving care. May Sean rest in peace.

### **SICK CALL**

James Woods (in assisted living)  
Don Cieri (home from the hospital)  
Joe Hendrix (Jay's brother)  
Lord, please keep them in your healing, loving care.

### **ALICE MAYNARD'S CELEBRATION OF LIFE (was on January 7th)**

Thank-you to ALL those who made Alice's Celebration so beautiful: organizers Commander Brenda Smull, Mary Woods, Barb LaChaix; Sergeant-at-Arms Mark Shillinger and our Color Guard for their beautiful Presentation of the Flag; Mary Woods, Barb LaChaix, and the many set-up/food prep friends for putting on this lovely event; all those who shared their stories; and especially to our Auxiliary President Darlene Hunter for presenting the beautiful eulogy! God Bless!

### **SPECIAL DATES IN FEBRUARY**

Feb 1 -- National Freedom Day  
Feb 3 -- Four Chaplains Day  
Feb 8 -- Boy Scouts of America Founded (1910)  
Feb 13 -- Shrove Tuesday  
Feb 14 -- Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day  
Feb 19 -- (Presidents' Day)

**HAPPY VALENTINES DAY TO ALL!!**

## **Sgt-At-Arms—Mark Shillinger**

At the January 17, 2024, monthly general meeting, the colors were pre-posted and the Pow-Mia ceremony was performed.

Officer reports were given. (Finance Officer Jay Hendrix and Chaplin Rebecca Schmidt were absent due to illness) Adjutant Roddy Charlton filled in for Chaplin Rebecca.

Saturday, January 20, 2024, we performed our quarterly street cleanup on Elliot Rd. Thank you all who participated.

Wednesday January 31, 2024, there will be a social mixer, from 5:00pm-7:00pm, at the Native Grill, on Ray Rd. Everyone is invited.

Our February officers meeting will be held on Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup>, in the Multipurpose Room at 4:00pm at the ARC.

Our February monthly meeting will be on Wednesday February 21<sup>st</sup>. in the ARC Main Hall.

Springfest, our spring fundraiser, will be on Saturday, March 9, 2024, in the ARC Main Hall. More details to follow. Preliminary work is going on behind the scenes and additional help would be appreciated.

The Color Guard will participate in the Kiwanis Easter parade again this year. The parade will be on March 30, 2024. More details will follow.

Last year, Jay Hendrix lead the burial flag detail and our sponsored boy scout troop. Post 64 is in need of additional Color Guard members. This is a very rewarding activity that honors our flag and veterans. If you are interested in joining or have questions, please contact me at [markshillinger@hotmail.com](mailto:markshillinger@hotmail.com), or 520-433-0538.

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

Post 64 ended the 2023 year with amazing accomplishments. We hope to continue our momentum as we move into the New Year, 2024!

Our post has been active at community events, engaging in monthly social mixers for community engagement, and collaborating with other veteran's organizations. The Executive Committee has been implementing innovative ideas to not only grow our membership but allows our current members to become more involved in Post activities.

We are in search of committee leads and volunteers to help with projects and upcoming fundraisers. Please reach out to Jay Hendrix if interested in helping with the Springfest Fundraiser in March, if interested in volunteering I speak to anyone from the Executive Committee.

In February we have our monthly General Meeting planned for Wednesday, 02/21/2024 and looking to having another social mixer at the end of the month (details to come for the social mixer)!

Currently we have two websites:

<https://www.americanlegionpost64.com> and <https://www.americanlegionpost64.org>

The goal is to have both websites combined into one. You will enter either of the web addresses and they will both direct to the same website! If interested, a preview the new website is active, although the other pages are currently being designed. You will be able to see the basic layout and design. I will be presenting a visual demonstration at an upcoming post meeting.

## **Service Officer—Craig Annis**

As expected, it December was a slow month, without many Vets needing any assistance. I made around 15-20 calls and assisted 4 Vets with small issues. We did have a non-Post Vet offer us his deceased wife's hospital bed and lift. We thought we had a home for it but that lead fell through.

We received many addition new members through transfer and will attempt to make contact with them all soon.

**Please Note:** if you know of a Post member or another Vet that needs assistance please call or email me at 480-255-5622 or [craigannis@ymail.com](mailto:craigannis@ymail.com)

### **Veterans Helping Veterans**

Pictured below:

***Pete Meier, Roddy Charlton, Craig Annis, Rod Green and Mark Shillinger helped fellow veteran Larry move a bed to the PVA (Paralyzed Veterans of America)***







## THE FOUR CHAPLAINS THE STORY AND THE CHAPEL

Early on the morning of February 3, 1943, the U.S.A.T. Dorchester was wallowing through icy seas off Greenland. Most of the 900 troops on board were asleep in their bunks. Suddenly a torpedo smashed into the Dorchester's flank. Frantically pounding up the ladders, the troops milled in confusion on the decks.

In those moments of panic, the coolest men aboard were four U.S. Army First Lieutenants Clark V. Poling (Reformed Church of America); Alexander D. Goods (Jewish); John P. Washington (Catholic); and George L. Fox (Methodist). The four chaplains led the men to boxes of life jackets, and passed them out to the soldiers with boat-drill precision. When the boxes were empty, the four chaplains quietly slipped off their own precious life preservers, put them on four young GIs and told them to jump.

The Dorchester went down 25 minutes later in a rumble of steam. Some 600 men were lost, but the heroic chaplains had helped save over 200. The last anyone saw of them, they were standing on the slanting deck, their arms linked in prayer to the one God they all served.

Far away in North Africa, Dr. Daniel A. Poling, distinguished American clergymen and father of Chaplain Clark Poling, was crouching in a fox hole when he learned of the heroic death of his son and his fellow Chaplains. In his mind was born the idea of a shrine in the memory of this noble sacrifice; a shrine where people of all faiths could worship God in a spirit of unity without the need of uniformity.

In the heart of a great city, Philadelphia, PA., the Chapel opens its doors to people of all races and religious faiths. It is a memorial to the Four Chaplains who went down on the U.S.A.T. Dorchester. It is an interfaith shrine; in it are three alters, one for each faith--Catholic, Jewish and Protestant. Above the entrance burns an eternal light which calls men to the unity these four Chaplains so heroically demonstrated. Chiseled deep into the stone is this dedication:

Chapel of Four Chaplains  
An Interfaith Shrine  
Here is Sanctuary for Brotherhood  
Let it never be violated





Adopt-a-Street  
01/07/2024



**American Legion Auxiliary  
Unit 64 Ahwatukee**

**President – Darlene Hunter**

Hello, ALAers: It’s the start of a New Year and we’re poised to begin a growth period in our benevolent pursuits.

Our first meeting of the Bingo Evaluation Committee was held in late December. We reviewed the AZ state rules and regulations and found no stumbling blocks in that arena. Unfortunately, health issues have slowed our progress. We’ll get back on track here shortly and finish the balance, to include: forms review, meeting with Post 91 to discuss their bingo operation and lastly, attending and playing actual games at Post 91, located at 922 N. Alma School Road, Chandler (their website: [azlegion91.org](http://azlegion91.org)). Post 91 holds bingo games on Tuesday & Thursday at 7 PM; Saturday at 5 PM. We encourage any bingo fan to voluntarily attend their game(s) and provide a detailed report on their operation, which would aid our committee immensely.

On Sunday January 21st, I attended the District 12 meeting held at Unit 41 in Phoenix. Our unit was bestowed the top membership award, as we scored 100% (to be expected, since we’re a new unit). We’ll reveal our “gift” at our next meeting.

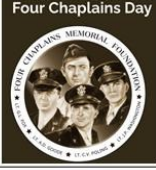


Let’s re-dedicate ourselves to our mission of: one and all...now and always...in service to God, our country, its veterans and their families.



# February 2024

## American Legion Post 64



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Four Chaplains Day 
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Executive Meeting ARC 4:00 pm <i>happy valentines day</i>	15	16	17
18	19 	20	21 General Meeting ARC Main Hall 4:00 pm	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	 <b>03/09/2024—SpringFest</b> <b>03/30/2024—Kiwanis Easter Parade</b>	

### Post Officers

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:peterhmeier@gmail.com">peterhmeier@gmail.com</a>
Adjutant	Roddy Charlton	480-993-6980	<a href="mailto:wrcinaz@aol.com">wrcinaz@aol.com</a>
Finance Officer	Jay Hendrix	602-616-1960	<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:craigannis@ymail.com">craigannis@ymail.com</a>
Sergeant-At-Arms	Mark Shillinger	520-433-0538	<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

# Spring Fest

DINNER AND DANCE

**SATURDAY, MARCH 9**

**ARC MEMBERS & GUESTS**

**5:30 DOORS OPEN**

**6:00 ITALIAN DINNER - RIGATONY'S**

**6:30 - 9:30 DANCE TO MUSIC OF  
THE MMK BAND**

**BYOB and 50/10 RAFFLE**



**TICKET SALES FEB 26 - MARCH 8**

**Mon. Wed. Sat 9-11 AM    Fridays 4:30 - 6:30 PM**

**\$30/person cash or check**

★ ★ ★  
**THE AMERICAN  
LEGION DISTRICT 12  
FAMILY**

**BBOQ**



**McCORMICK -STILLMAN  
RAILROAD PARK**

17301 E INDIAN BEND RD.,  
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85250

**MARCH**

**10**

11:00AM