



AHWATUKEE AMERICAN LEGION POST 64

March 2024

<http://www.americanlegionpost64.com>

Commander—Brenda Smull

Spring is here and activities at our post are warming up and growing strong. The outreach and buddy checks to members continue to have a great deal of positive impact and our activity committees have been busy bees planning our SpringFest dinner/dance fundraiser event on March 9th as well as other PR events in Ahwatukee.

Our membership renewals are solid at 107% of the District 12 goal and our monthly member meetings continue to attract guests and new members.

Support of the Ahwatukee community is an important aspect of our duty and we are planning to lead the annual Easter Parade with our Color Guard and Boy Scout Troop 127 again.

As your Commander, I want to recognize and appreciate the great leaders and officers of our post who display their **selfless service** on a daily basis. Strong and committed leadership is the critical key to any volunteer organization and I am proud of our cadre.

As we look to **Post Officer elections in mid May, we are opening up the nomination process and a committee in March.** I wanted to take a moment to list the core, elected Post Officer roles and their primary responsibilities.

- 1. Adjutant-** Shall have charge of the Post's administrative files; complete and file appropriate forms as required; keep a full and correct record of the proceedings of meetings; administer election requirements; manage correspondence needs of the Post.
- 2. Service Officer-** Assist members with the VA claims process and protecting the rights and privileges of all veterans, their dependents and survivors. Maintain contact with the State Service Officer and the National and Department Rehabilitation Commission so that he or she is kept informed of laws regarding aid to veterans and their dependents.
- 3. Chaplain-** Responsible for the spiritual welfare of the Post membership. Perform nonsectarian services for funerals, official meetings, dedications, or public functions. Send out cards: Get well for the ill, Sympathy, and Thinking of you for members who have missed meetings.

(continued on the next page)



Commander's Report Continued

4. **SGT at Arms**- Preserve order at all Post meetings, set up the meeting room, take charge of the Colors.
5. **Finance Officer**- Shall have charge of all finances of the Post and see that all funds are properly deposited in a local bank or banks as approved by the Executive Committee.
6. **Commander**- Preside over the meetings of the Post and have general supervision over the business affairs of the Post. The Chief Executive Officer of the Post and shall make an annual report covering the business of the Post for the year served as Commander.
7. **1st Vice Commander**- Assume and discharge the duties of the office of Commander in the absence of, or disability of, or when called upon by the Commander. Be Chair of the Membership Committee and ensure new membership applications, renewals and transfer are processed
8. **2nd Vice Commander**- Responsible for Post Activities including: social mixers, entertainment, fundraisers, patriotic observances, and speakers for meetings.

Please contact me or Adjutant, Roddy Charlton, if you would like to nominate someone for a Post Officer role or have questions on the responsibilities.

We look forward to seeing you at our SpringFest event!



02/21/2024 Meeting Minutes — David Green

Call to Order

A monthly membership meeting of American Legion Post 64 was held on 2/21/24 at The ARC MAIN Hall. It began at 1600 and was presided over by Brenda Smull, with David Green as secretary with meeting ending @ 1700.

Attendance

Voting members

Brenda Smull, Craig Annis, Jay Hendrix, and Mark Shillinger

Guest

2 guests (Wayne and Pam Dusek who submitted paperwork to join our Post)

Wayne is an Air Force veteran who served in Vietnam Era.

Total in Attendance

We had a total of 22 people in attendance at the meeting.

Voting Members not in attendance

Roddy Charlton, Rebecca Schmidt, Peter Meier

Opening of Meeting

Commander opened meeting with the reading of the American Legion Mission.

Post Member, Tamma Notaro, gave opening and closing prayers during the Chaplain's absence.

Topics announced during the "For the Good of the Order" section of meeting:

Agenda topics:

1. Spring Fest event planning is ongoing.
 - We are still looking for people to donate items for the Silent Auction.
 - Semper-fi Heating & Cooling to be our sponsor
 - RigaTony's will be serving 2 different options for meals.

(continued on the next page)

02/21/2024 Meeting Minutes Continued

2. Easter Parade on 3/30
 - will include the Boy Scout troop to help with the burial flags.
 - We are open to including wheeled vehicles (golf carts with flags and wheelchairs in the Post procession).
3. Post Nomination for Post Officers
 - Opening for Nominations
 - Brenda to include information on the roles and responsibilities in the March newsletter
4. Remembrance Services
 - To be included on April 17th membership meeting
 - To be led by Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt
5. PR/Informational Booth – Chili Cook off
 - Ahwatukee Homeowners Association invited post to setup informational booth
 - March 9th & 10th 10am-2pm
 - Location Warner and 48th St @ baseball field
 - Stop by for support or volunteer for the event
6. Our collaboration with JVW Post 619 continues
 - Several members of our post joining them and 3 members from their post have joined
 - \$40 annual fee to join and do not have to be Jewish to join.
 - To hold Poppy donation fundraising drives at the Fry's on Ray Rd on May 25th and 26th and Post is to be a part of the process.
7. Membership
 - Numbers are strong at 107% of District 12 goal having renewed.
 - Our current membership numbers are 170
8. No reports were given by the First Vice Commander, Second Vice, Adjutant, and Chaplain.

VSO Report

- Buddy Check Program
- Buddy Check calls, currently have 4 call helpers, hoping to reach all Members at least once every 60 days.
- Had several new faces at the meeting, thanks to contacting through Buddy Check.
- Prayers for Robert Gill and James Woods

Post Information Officer David Green

- Request Prayers for his family's friend as their Lance Corporal John Lake III was laid to rest on February 23rd.
- Informed members of suggestion box online
- Update events and Pictures.
- New website updates to come.

SGT of Arms Mark Shillinger

- Thanked everyone who helped with the Legion storage move on the 10th. (Rod Green, Roddy Charlton, Al and Darlene Hunter, Craig Annis, Dan Chong).
- We ended up with more storage room, plus a refrigerator/freezer.
- SpringFest, the Color Guard will post the colors at the beginning of the event.

Conclusion

Meeting ended with Prayer.



First Vice Commander—Al Hunter

The following is based on an extensive study of the many studies performed by a number of researchers over many years. 1968 was definitely a year of great historic events. One may ask why state this in a membership report? Analysis strongly suggests 1968 was the high-water mark for membership in all major community service organizations. Unfortunately, what followed was a slow and steady decline in membership. What is compelling is the consistent findings. This report provides a condensed version of those conclusions. Naturally one reason is leadership styles, especially dictatorial. Another are members whose caustic attitudes poison the environment within the club. But these are easily visible and can be addressed. This report's purpose is the most common cause of failure that is extremely subtle, so subtle that, in many cases, goes undetected until it reaches a point of crisis and unfortunately, in many cases, reaches a point where saving the club is unattainable.

There are many factors that contribute to the club's demise.

1. Aging membership.
2. Loss of mission focus
3. Loss of member's passion for club's activities

It starts with a decline in volunteers to support club activities. All three aforementioned are major contributors. As we age, nature plays a role in an ability to participate, both physically and mentally. As during our active-duty years, a clearly defined mission promoted the drive needed for success. Loss of member's passion or change in passion for the stated organization's mission to another mission reduces the drive to devotion for the organization's goals. In my case, I joined Lions International to fulfill my passion to support folks afflicted with Diabetes and its effects since my mom suffered with it and passed away and I also am afflicted but have it under control. A couple of years ago, being a Vietnam Vet and seeing the struggles my fellow Vets are experiencing change my passion. Lions do provide some support, but American Legion is solely dedicated to support for my fellow Vets. That is why I became a Legion member.

The result is first the participation level in an organization's activities declines. Then participation in leadership responsibilities declines. All this increases the workload on fewer and fewer members until burnout occurs then finally the demise of the organization.

In future reports, I will provide more detail on identifying the signs of trouble and actions necessary to stall it and hopefully reverse it.



Adjutant—Roddy Charlton

Post 64 Letter Of Inclusion:

I have received a letter from The American Legion, National Judge Advocate, Mark C. Seavey, dated February 5, 2024 (attachment at end of newsletter). This is Post 64 **Letter Of Inclusion** granting exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). This letter is written proof of tax-exempt status used to open bank accounts, apply for grants, apply for charitable gaming licenses and receive donations as a 501(c)(19) non-profit organization.

A copy of a **Letter Of Inclusion** was requested by Post Officers in April 2023. I was not able to locate the original letter. I generated a request to the American Legion, National Judge Advocate, requesting a **Letter Of Inclusion** to document exempt status under provisions of Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code 1954, as amended. We have now received this important letter, please review the letter and print a copy for your files. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Update / Revision Of Post 64 Constitution/By-Laws/Standing Rules

Post 64 has three documents that govern the organization, These documents were adopted in November 1996, amended in November 2006, May 2013, September 2015, September 2018 and last amended in October 2019. I am in the process of identifying Post Officers/Members who would like to participate in this review and revision of these three documents. I have already received the names of a few members that will support this important activity. I will send out the current documents for review to all interested in supporting this activity. Document Review and Revision will be conducted in March 2023 at the ARC. There will be interim reviews, a final review by all Post members, and a final sign-off by the Post Commander.



Service Officer—Craig Annis

Big Thank You to our Post 64 Buddy Check call volunteers: Rebecca Schmidt, Matt Wasilefsky, Steve “Gunny” Parker & Donald Gerhard. Their help is so appreciated. We are now up to 163+ Post 64 Members. If anyone, Members or Auxiliary, are interested in helping in this valuable endeavor, please Call me, 480-255-5622.

We had 2 members pass away, Ron Rasmussen and David Shephard. We had 17 various members assist with counseling for members. There was also a total of 51 outgoing calls and 9 incoming calls.

Thanks to Mark Shillinger, Pete Meier, Roddy Charlton, Rod Green we assisted in moving a hospital bed and lift from a Vets home to PVA (Paralyzed Veterans of America).

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS is what Post 64 is about and we are Growing!

Chaplain—Rebecca Schmidt

HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY! (Sunday, March 17, 2024)

An Irish Blessing: "May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face, may the rains fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand." May the Luck of the Irish, and the Blessings of Saint Patrick, be with us always!

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Jim Ortega passed away on January 23rd, 2024. Jim served in the U.S. Army during Vietnam, and was a member of our Post for over 12 years. Please keep Jim's wife Lorraine, and their family, in your prayers.

SICK CALL (Lord, please keep them in your healing, loving care.)

James Woods

Don Cieri

Joe Hendrix (Jay's brother)

Ann Schminke

Bob Gill

OTHER SPECIAL DATES IN MARCH

Mar 3 -- "Star-Spangled Banner" Made U.S. National Anthem (1931)

Mar 9 -- Post 64 SpringFest

Mar 12 -- Girl Scouts of the U.S. Founded (1912)

Mar 19 -- Iraq War Began (2003)

Mar 23 -- Purim Begins

Mar 24 -- Palm Sunday

Mar 29 -- Good Friday

Mar 30 -- Ahwatukee Easter Parade

Mar 31 -- Easter

**REMEMBRANCE
SERVICE**



Emil Jansky James Ortega
Honoring: Alice Maynard Ron Rasmussen
Mike McCarron David Shepard

American Legion Post 64
April 17, 2024 - 4PM Main Hall
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



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Sgt-At-Arms—Mark Shillinger

At the February 21st, monthly general meeting, the colors were pre-posted and the Pow-Mia ceremony was performed.

Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and an opening prayer was offered.

Officer reports were given. (Adjutant Roddy Charlton, Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt, First Vice Commander Al Hunter and Second Vice Commander Pete Meier were absent)

Post 64 was approached by the ARC General Manager, Amy Nicholls, that a better area for our storage was becoming available. We were given the option of moving into this area, which we did, on February 10th. A big thanks to those who helped make it happen: Rod Green, Roddy Charlton, Dan Chong, Al and Darlene Hunter, Craig Annis and Ron Raucci.

Springfest, our spring fundraiser, will be on Saturday, March 9th, in the ARC Main Hall. The Color Guard will post the colors at the beginning of the event. Tickets go on sale starting Monday, February 26th, in the lobby of the ARC at 9-11 am, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, with Sales on Friday at 4:30-6:30 pm., continuing up to the event. On March 9th, doors open at 5:30 pm, with dinner by RigaTony's (Chicken Piccata, baked rigatoni, salad, bread and dessert.) Dinner is served at 6 pm, music by the MMK band starts at about 6:30, continuing to 9:30 pm. There will be a 50/50 raffle along with many other prizes raffled off during the evening.

Also, on March 9th and 10th, Post 64 will have an informational tent set up at the ABM Chili cook-off, scheduled for 10 am-2 pm.

The Color Guard will participate in the Kiwanis Easter parade again this year. The parade will be on March 30th, at 10 am. Jay Hendrix will lead the burial flag detail, behind the Color Guard, with Boy Scout Troop 172 carrying burial flags.

On May 25th and 26th, Post 64 will work with the Jewish War Veterans group to sell poppies, at the Fry's on Ray Rd, at 40th street.

The next general meeting will be March 20th, but NOT in the main hall. Commander Brenda Smull is arranging a different location.

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, or 520-433-0538.





**American Legion Auxilliary
Unit 64 Ahwatukee**

President – Darlene Hunter

The month of March is going to be a busy one for Unit 64. March 2, 2024 – Bev Shillinger and Darlene Hunter will be attending an all-day training session at Unit 2, conducted by 2 officer holders at the Department of State. March 9, 2024 – 6 food servers (Bev Shillinger, Barbara LeChaix, Cathy Wangstad, Deborah Spalding, Joan Uhler and Darlene Hunter), 3 raffle ticket sellers (Christy Hendrix, Patricia Morgan and Belva Stites from Support The Troops) and 1 raffle ticket collector (Judy Steffen) will be busy with their assigned roles at the Post's SpringFest Dinner/Dance. RigaTony's catering the dinner – the main entrée will be Chicken Piccata or Baked Rigatoni, Antipasto Salad, Dinner Roll, Cupcake plus drinks. Price: \$30.00. I encourage everyone to go and support our Post!

I'm trying to locate a nearby Post currently offering Bingo as their fundraiser to arrange a meeting, where we can learn from their experience and continue our pursuit of offering Bingo at ARC.

I just learned of a unique opportunity today for a family caregiver to a veteran OR a veteran who's the caregiver for the family are eligible for a \$500 prepaid Star respite card. Both the caregiver and the veteran are eligible to apply. You will need to fill out a questionnaire and verify veteran status. This opportunity is being presented by Duet's Meaning and Hope Institute and ends on March 15, 2024. For more information, go to: meaningandhope.org/respite. Spread the word...

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



March 2024

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</i> ARC 4:00 pm	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 <i>General Meeting</i> ARC Main Hall 4:00 pm	21	22	23
24 Palm Sunday	25	26	27	28	29 Good Friday	30 Easter Parade
31 Happy Easter						

Post Officers

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	peterhmeier@gmail.com
Adjutant	Roddy Charlton	480-993-6980	wrcinaz@aol.com
Finance Officer	Jay Hendrix	602-616-1960	jayhendrix@cox.net
Chaplain	Rebecca Schmidt	602-292-8401	rebeccacinaz@aol.com
Service Officer	Craig Annis	480-255-5622	craigannis@ymail.com
Sergeant-At-Arms	Mark Shillinger	520-433-0538	markshillinger@hotmail.com
Information Officer	David Green	928-830-0085	david.a.greenjr@gmail.com



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
Veterans Strengthening America

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

PO BOX 1055, INDIANAPOLIS, IN, 46206-1055 • WWW.LEGION.ORG • P: (317) 630-1200 • F: (317) 630-1223

February 5, 2024

William Charlton, Adjutant
American Legion Ahwatukee, Inc. Post 64
5001 E. Cheyenne Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85044-1706

Dear Adjutant Charlton:

In reply to your recent request, the National Organization of The American Legion was granted its exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service in 1934. In February of 1946, we submitted to the central office of the Internal Revenue Service a complete listing of all Departments and Posts existing in the Legion up to and including December 31, 1945. With our submission we requested a group ruling which would extend exemption from the payment of federal income tax for those Departments and Posts designated in our listing.

Each year since 1946 supplemental listings have been transmitted to the Internal Revenue Service for an over-all group ruling covering those Departments and Posts chartered during the previous year. Group rulings have been issued yearly by the Internal Revenue Service covering those Departments and Posts. *Post 64 was chartered on May 12, 1993, it was included in our original listing. Post 64 does not appear on the IRS list of revoked organizations.* Enclosed is a copy of the original ruling.

Section 101(8) referred to in the exemption letter corresponds to Section 501 (c) (4) of the 1954 Code. The American Legion, its component Departments and Posts, were exempt from the payment of federal income tax under this Section up to and including the year 1972. By virtue of the passage of Public Law 92-418 on August 29, 1972, veterans' organizations were given a separate classification under the Code, Section 501(c)(19). A copy of that ruling is also enclosed.

Also enclosed please find a copy of a letter we received from the Internal Revenue Service dated February 17, 1976, wherein the National Organization, Departments and Posts were instructed to use the number 0925 as their Group Exemption Number (GEN) when filing their Form 990.

In addition, the status of The American Legion and its Departments and Posts may allow acceptance of charitable gifts and bequests. The following might be of assistance to you.

Deductibility of Contributions to The American Legion is governed by 26 U.S.C. 170 (c) (3) Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended.

Deductibility for bequests is established by 26 U.S.C. Section 2055 (a) (4).



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Section 170(c)(3) reads as follows:

***Section 170. Charitable, etc., contributions and gifts**

(a) Allowance of deduction

(1) General Rule. - There shall be allowed as a deduction any charitable contribution (as defined in sub-section (c) payment of which is made within the taxable year. A charitable contribution shall be allowable as a deduction only if verified under regulations prescribed by the Secretary or his delegate.

* * *

(c) Charitable contribution defined. For purposes of this section the term 'charitable contribution' means a contribution or gift to or for the use of -

(3) A post or organization of war veterans, or an auxiliary unit or society of, or trust or foundation for, any such post or organization -

(A) organized in the United States or any of its possessions, and

(B) no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual."

According to the records at The American Legion National Headquarters, your Post EIN is 27-4573535.



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February 5, 2024

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I trust the foregoing information is what you needed. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

MARK C. SEAVEY, J.D.
National Judge Advocate

cc: Dept. Commander-Arizona
Dept. Adjutant
Dept. NECman
Dept. Judge Advocate