

AHWATUKEE POST 64
NARRATIVE HISTORY 2019-2020

Saturday, June 1, 2019, Counselors and Staff arrived at the campus of Northern Arizona University for the 2019 session of Arizona Boys State. All Counselor and Staff orientation was held at American Legion Post #3 in Flagstaff. Dinner was served following the meeting at Flagstaff Post #3.

Sunday, June 2 thru Saturday, June 8, 2019, was the 73rd session of Arizona Boys State on the campus of NAU. Post #64 member Roger Munchbach attended the weeklong event, working as a County Counselor for Vawter County, made up of the cities of Orth, Pershing, and Pruitt. Roger also assisted during Opening and Closing Ceremonies posting and retrieving the POW / MIA seat cover and presenting gavels to all Mayors and City Clerks, and Community Service plaques to four Boys State Treasurers for their week's efforts.

Wednesday, June 12, 2019, was the Post #64 Executive Committee Meeting. The meeting was held in the Ahwatukee Recreation Center from 1505 hours until 1550 hours. Commander Pete Meier conducted the meeting with a total of eleven members present. Items covered included: June 14 Flag Day Retirement Ceremony; June 13 Happy Hour event for Post #64 and Schwab Veterans Network members; 100% membership report (207 members) from First Vice Commander Bob Smithson; and a report on the June 20-23, 2019, Department of Arizona 100th Annual Convention (Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass, 5594 W. Wild Horse Pass Blvd., Phoenix, AZ 85226).

Thursday, June 13, 2019, was Happy Hour (1600 hours to 1900 hours) at Ahwatukee's Irish Hare Pub. Members from both Ahwatukee Post #64 and Schwab Veterans Network

attended the get together event. Several veterans (three) from Schwab joined the ranks of Post #64 as a result of that function. Post #64 gave out U.S. flags and Ahwatukee Post #64 ball caps.

Friday, June 14, 2019, was Flag Day, and Post #64 conducted an annual U.S. Flag Retirement Ceremony in the Ahwatukee Recreation Center parking lot. The ceremony started at dusk with eleven Color Guard members involved. Fifty attended the outdoor event, then everyone went inside for refreshments, cake and cookies.

Sunday, June 16, 2019, was Father's Day.

Wednesday, June 19, 2019, was The American Legion Ahwatukee Post #64 General Membership Meeting. The meeting was called to order by Commander Pete Meier at 1500 hours in the Ahwatukee Recreation Center ballroom with twenty-two in attendance. Items covered at the meeting included: 100% membership report; Three new members were signed up at the Happy Hour event at the Irish Hare; No one on Sick call; Color Guard Commander reported on the Flag Day Disposal Program; The 4th of July Program; Deb Dembiec is now available to do the Post 64 bugler duties if necessary; Marine Corp League has funds available to help needy veterans in the area; Possible change to 1600 hours Post #64 meetings as opposed to 1500 hours meetings; and the installation of Post #64 Officers for 2019-2020 conducted by Post #64 Adjutant Roger Munchbach and assisted by Ken Dembiec. New officers are as follows: Commander Pete Meier; First Vice Commander Bob Smithson; Second Vice Commander Doug Patterson; Adjutant / Historian Roger Munchbach; Finance Officer Jay Hendrix; Chaplain Rebecca Schmitt; Sergeant-at-Arms Dave VonTersch, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Roddy Charlton; Assistant Membership Chairman Ken Dembiec; and Refreshment Chairman Alice Maynard. The meeting was closed by Post #64 Commander Pete Meier at 1605 hours with refreshments following the meeting.

June 20-23, 2019, was the Department of Arizona 100th Annual Convention. All meetings were held at the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass, 5594 W. Wild Horse Pass Blvd., Phoenix, AZ 85226. Attending the convention representing Ahwatukee Post 64 were Roger and Deb Munchbach, Ken Dembiec, and John Boyer. Post #64 Convention Boosters included: Bob Smithson, Roger Munchbach, Pete Meier, Brenda Smull, and Roddy Charlton. Post #64 was recognized for the following: Post Color Guard; Post History Book; Community Service; 100% Membership; and Americanism. Elected for Department Commander 2019-2020 was Ken Queen from Apache Post #27.

June 29-July 6, 2019, was the annual Arizona American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy (ALLECA).

Thursday, July 4, 2019, was the Independence Day observance at William Bloys American Legion Tempe Post #2. The Post #2 tribute was followed by the ringing of the "Freedom Bell". The "Freedom Bell" was liberated from the Mauthausen concentration camp along the Danube River (the third largest Austrian concentration camp during WWII). The event was ended with a free lunch of burgers and brats. Roger and Deb Munchbach attended the event. Also, that same day at 1630 hours was the annual Fourth of July Hot Dog Dinner. The event was hosted by the Support the Troops Committee in the Ahwatukee Recreation Center ballroom. Ahwatukee Post #64 Color Guard presented Colors before the crowd of 250 in attendance.

Saturday, July 6, 2019, was graduation day for the 27 cadets that attended the Arizona American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy (ALLECA). The ceremony was held at the Emmanuel Pines Camp in Prescott, AZ. Roger and Deb Munchbach attended the event.

Saturday, July 27, 2019, was an American Red Cross Blood Drive at the Harley Davidson store in Chandler, AZ. Roger Munchbach donated a pint of whole blood that day.

Tuesday, July 30, 2019, was the signing of S.B. 504, the “Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service (LEGION) Act”. The Legion Act was signed in the Oval Office of the White House by President Donald J. Trump. The signing caused the American Legion membership to open from December 7, 1941, until the present for all honorably discharged veterans.

Thursday, August 1, 2019, was the dedication ceremony for the new building of Veda B. Frank Elementary School in Guadalupe, AZ. Roger and Deb Munchbach attended the Guadalupe Post 124 event and assisted in the flag raising ceremony.

Friday, August 16, 2019, the Post received a request from Dr. Patty Hineman (Asst. Principal / Athletic Director at Kyrene Traditional Academy, 3375 W. Galveston St., Chandler, AZ 85226). She wanted the Post #64 Color Guard to join in a dedication ceremony by performing a flag raising ceremony in the courtyard between the elementary school and the new middle school building. The information was forwarded to the Post #64 Color Guard Commander for consideration of an event to be held on Sept. 11, 2019.

Monday, August 12, 2019, Roger Munchbach talked to Michelle Cefola (Director of Academic College and Career Advising at Valley Christian High School, 6900 W. Galveston Dr. Chandler, AZ 85226). Roger informed Valley Christian High School about American Legion Programs, Scholarships, and local community service hours available for high school students. Michelle Cefola also requested to be put on the Post #64 email list to receive the Post’s monthly newsletter.

Friday, August 16, 2019, was the annual Ahwatukee Foothills Chamber of Commerce’s ‘Day of Champions’ breakfast. The Nonprofit of the Year award went to Ahwatukee’s Festival

of Lights with Ahwatukee American Legion Post #64 taking second place in that category. Eight Post #64 members attended the event.

Monday, September 2, 2019, was Labor Day and VJ Day.

Saturday, September 7, 2019, was the Annual Veterans Helping Veterans Dinner and Auction Fund Raising Event. Three Post #64 members attended that fund raising event, donating a 'booze' basket and a 'tool' basket. The event was held at Chandler Post #35 (2240 W. Chandler Blvd, Chandler, AZ 85224) and the cost was \$20 per person for the dinner, auction, and music (Cocktails 5:00 pm, Dinner 6:00 pm, Music and Auction following dinner).

Sunday, September 8, 2019, was the annual 'Massing of the Colors' event conducted at the Elks Lodge and hosted by the Military Order of the World Wars. Post #64 supplied the Post #64 Banner for the 'Massing'. Two members attended the function.

Monday, September 9, 2019, was the recon of the courtyard area at Kyrene Traditional Academy performed by Post #64 Color Guard Commander Dave VonTersch in preparation for the Dedication Ceremony on September 11.

Wednesday, September 11, 2019, was Patriot Day and the School Dedication Ceremony at Kyrene Traditional Academy (3375 W. Galveston St., Chandler, AZ 85226). Seven Post #64 Color Guard members took part in the event with 780 K-8th grade students and teachers that morning.

Wednesday, September 11, 2019, was the monthly Post #64 Executive Committee Meeting. The meeting was called to order by Post #64 Commander Pete Meier in the Ahwatukee Recreation Center's boardroom at 1600 hours with twelve members in attendance. Items covered included: Flag disposal problem; Buying a 25 foot telescoping flag pole, with solar lighting, to be given to the Ahwatukee Recreation Center for the new parking lot; Storage

room key (#99) for Post #64 supplies; Membership is now at 54% of goal (111 paid to date); ‘Run for the Fallen’ to be held in Arizona on October 18-20, 2019, with Post #64 donating \$150; Recommendation to raise Post #64 annual dues to \$35 in July 2020; ‘Support the Troops’ program set for November 13-14, 2019, with Post #64 donating \$250; and ‘Massing of the Colors’ set at Marcos de Niza High School for December 7, 2019. The meeting was closed at 1730 hours by Commander Pete Meier.

Sunday, September 15, 2019, was the District #12 Meeting. The meeting was hosted by Phoenix Post #65 and was attended by two Post #64 members.

Monday, September 16, 2019, American Legion Day, was a Town Hall Meeting. The meeting was attended by about 100 people at the Ahwatukee Event Center and was sponsored by the Ahwatukee Foothills Chamber of Commerce. The speaker for the evening was newly elected Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego. Post #64 Color Guard presented Colors during the opening of the event. Ten Color Guard members attended that meeting.

Tuesday, September 17, 2019, was Citizenship / Constitution Day.

Wednesday, September 18, 2019, was the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard birthday. That same day was the Ahwatukee Post #64 General Membership Meeting. The meeting was called to order at 1605 hours by Cmdr. Pete Meier in the Ahwatukee Recreation Center ballroom with twenty-two in attendance. Items covered during the meeting included: Membership reported at 112 or 54% of goal; Department dues to increase \$1 each year for the next 5 years starting on 1/1/2020; Membership recruiting prizes; the Legion Act expanding eligibility for membership; Men may also join the American Legion Auxiliary as the spouse of a veteran; Department Membership Revitalization program set for October 24-26 at Post #1 in Phoenix; Finance Officer reported donation of \$250 for ‘Support the Troops’ Committee and

\$150 for 'Run for the Fallen' program; New Post Service Officer Ed Mangan now to assist with veterans' issues; Color Guard reported on the September 11 ceremony at Kyrene Traditional Academy and the 'Meet the Mayor Town Hall' presentation on September 16; Golf tournament cancelled for Fall. The meeting was closed at 1710 hours, Colors were retrieved, and refreshments followed.

Friday, September 20, 2019, the Adjutant filed and paid \$10 to the Arizona Corporation Commission on behalf of Ahwatukee American Legion Post 64, Inc.

Saturday, September 28, 2019, was the quarterly Post #64 Elliot Rd. clean-up. Six took part in the community service event.

Monday, September 30, 2019, the first bowl of Halloween candy was delivered for all ARC members to enjoy. That same day, Post 64 three year member Janice Langley-Smith passed away. Janice was 83 and funeral services were held at the Valley of the Sun Mortuary (10940 E. Chandler Heights Rd., Chandler, AZ), with final resting at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona on Veterans Day, November 11.

October was National Disability / Employment Awareness Month.

Saturday, October 5, 2019, was the Guadalupe American Legion Post 124 Stand Down. Two Post 64 members attended the event.

Wednesday, October 9, 2019, was the Post 64 Executive Committee Meeting. The meeting was called to order by Post Commander Pete Meier at 1600 hours in the ARC boardroom with nine members in attendance. Items covered at that meeting included: the ARC Clubs Boutique scheduled for Dec. 4; Colors at the Ahwatukee Chamber of Commerce dinner on October 24; Membership at 57%; Run for the Fallen on October 20; Post to donate a flag pole

with solar lighting to ARC; and a moment of silence for the recent crash of a B-17. The meeting was closed at 1650 hours.

Sunday, October 13, 2019, was the U.S. Navy Birthday.

Monday, October 14, 2019, was Columbus Day.

Wednesday, October 16, 2019, was the Post 64 General Membership Meeting. The meeting was called to order by Post 64 Commander Pete Meier at 1605 hours in the Ahwatukee Recreation Center ballroom with 29 members in attendance. Items covered at that meeting included: Membership -- 123 of 207 or 59% of Post goal; Membership approved a dues increase (\$35) to start in July 2020 for the 2020-2021 membership year; All veterans who have served since December 7, 1941, and were honorably discharged are now eligible to join the American Legion; October 20 'Run for the Fallen' Post 64 group to meet across from Fry's Electronics in Tempe; Approved the donation of a new flag pole with a solar light in the ARC parking lot; A moment of silence for the passing of Janice Smith; Color Guard scheduled with Ahwatukee Chamber of Commerce on October 24; Sunrise Senior Living Center Veterans Day program on November 9; Massing of the Colors December 6; Department Fall Conference in Tucson; Newest Post member Gary Werner; Packages for the Troops November 13-14 (\$250 Post donation); Winterfest party January 18; On-demand name tags available; ARC Thanksgiving Dinner (\$15 per ticket); and a Navy birthday cake during refreshment time. The first special speakers for the meeting were Zachary Cortez. Zach, from Mountain Pointe High School, attended Arizona Boys State in June 2019. He spoke about his experiences for the week and thanked the Post for sponsoring him. Zach received the Arizona Boys Stater of the Year Award and was in the running for Boys Nation. The second speaker was Gary V. Werner. Gary talked about his product line and his need to hire skilled veterans to assemble products. The

meeting was closed at 1700 hours by Commander Pete Meier. Refreshments followed the meeting.

Saturday, October 19, 2019, was the United Food Bank Volunteer Center Grand Opening Celebration (6 pm to 8:30 pm). United Food Bank is located at 358 East Javelina Ave., Mesa, AZ. Post 64 and members donate to Feed the Hungry here in Arizona every year.

Sunday, October 20, 2019, was the 'Run for the Fallen'. Several Post 64 members greeted runners as they passed thru Tempe. Post 64 also received a thank you card for continued dedication and support from 'Run for the Fallen' organizer Laura Sutton.

Thursday, October 24, 2019, was the 25th Anniversary and Scholarship Celebration for the Ahwatukee Foothills Chamber of Commerce. Post 64 presented Colors for Opening Ceremonies, and eight Post 64 members attended the event. The celebration was held at the Whirlwind Golf Club at Wild Horse Pass.

October 24 thru October 26, 2019, was the Arizona Revitalization Membership Event. The event was hosted by Phoenix Post 1. Post 64 Membership Chairman Bob Smithson and Assistant Chairman (Ken Dembiec) took part in the membership drive.

Saturday, October 26, 2019, was the American Legion Department of Arizona District 11 and 12 Centennial Celebration. The event was held at the Unexpected Venue, 743 W. Polk St., Phoenix, AZ 85007. The after-party followed at Luke Greenway Post 1, 354 North 7th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85007.

Sunday, October 27, 2019, was Navy Day.

Thursday, October 31, 2019, was Halloween.

November was 'Membership Retention Month'.

Tuesday, November 5, 2019, was Election Day, and Post 64 did its part to 'Get Out The Vote'.

November 8-10, 2019, was the American Legion Fall Conference. All meetings were held at the Double Tree Hotel in Tucson, AZ. Five Conference Boosters were sent in from Post 64.

Saturday morning, November 9, 2019, was the Guadalupe Veterans Day Parade. Roger and Deb Munchbach and Wayne Allen took part in this annual event.

Saturday afternoon, November 9, 2019, was a program to honor veterans was held at Sunrise Senior Living of Chandler (5757 W. Chandler Blvd., Chandler, AZ 85226). Twelve Post 64 members attended the veterans' tribute. Post 64 Color Guard members presented 'Colors' and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Post 64 Color Guard also marched in with the five U.S. service banners for the program. Contact person at Sunrise Senior Living was Nancy Lombroso 'Activities and Volunteer Coordinator' (480-786-4998 or Chandler.AVC@sunrisensiorliving.com).

Sunday, November 10, 2019, was the USMC birthday and the 100th birthday for the American Legion Auxiliary.

Monday, November 11, 2019, was Veterans Day. Ahwatukee Girl Scout Jane Spellman was at the Ahwatukee Recreation Center to help raise funds to buy a new flag pole and a drop-off box for unserviceable flags as part of the 'Gold Award Take Action Project' she was hoping to complete. Also, that same day, there was a memorial service at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona for three year Post 64 member Janice Langley-Smith (daughter, Tracey 925-899-7684). Several Post 64 members attended the services. Janice was commissioned as a

Navy Nurse, and was one of the first Navy Nurses to actively serve on the USS Antietam aircraft carrier.

Wednesday, November 13, 2019, was the Post 64 Executive Committee Meeting. The meeting was called to order at 1600 hours by Post 64 Commander Pete Meier with 12 members in attendance. Items covered during that meeting included: Ahwatukee Food Truck Festival; Sunrise Assisted Living event; Ahwatukee Recreation Center parking lot restrictions; Winterfest donations and planning; ARC Boutique event; Vet's Talk Career Event (Brenda Smull); Veteran's Networking events; Boxes to Our Troops; Christmas trees at the VA Medical Center; Sponsoring a Holiday Family; East Valley Food Bank; and Happy Hour at Aunt Chilada's. The meeting was closed at 1700 hours.

November 13, 2019, was the 'Packages to Our Troops' preparation and wrapping day.

Thursday, November 14, 2019, was the 'Packages to Our Troops' boxing and shipping of the 150 boxes to be sent to troops overseas. Many Post 64 members took part in that program to support our service members stationed out of country.

Friday, November 15, 2019, was the Ahwatukee Eats Food Truck Festival. Post 64 Color Guard performed a flag raising ceremony and lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. The festival helped raise money to provide veterans with a free food truck meal (up to \$10). The event took place at the Desert Dentistry - Ahwatukee branch (4609 E. Chandler Blvd., Phoenix, AZ). Eight members attended that event. Also, that same evening, was the veterans get together at Aunt Chilada's. Several Post 64 members got together to have snacks and drinks with veterans from Charles Schwab's local office. The event was organized by Post 64 members Brenda E. Smull, DTM, PRA (VP Public Relations, Ahwatukee Toastmasters, 303-301-4429). Fifteen people attended the social event.

Sunday, November 17, 2019, was the District 12 Meeting. The meeting was hosted by Phoenix Post 41 and was attended by two Post 64 members.

November 17-23, 2019, was American Education Week. Post 64 delivered thank you treats on November 18 and 19 to seven nearby schools (Kyrene Traditional Academy, Mountain Pointe High School, Desert Vista High School, Valley Christian High School, Centennial Middle School, Altadena Middle School, and Estrella Elementary School). Also, that same day, 2000 poppies were delivered to Auxiliary Department HQ for distribution throughout the state.

Wednesday, November 20, 2019, was the Post 64 General Membership Meeting. The meeting was called to order in the Ahwatukee Recreation Center ballroom at 1610 hours by Post 64 Commander Peter Meier with 29 in attendance. Items covered at that meeting included: Membership reported at 144 or 70% of Post 64 goal; Jane Spellman (local Girl Scout) to help raise funds for an unserviceable flag drop box and flag pole plaque; Color Guard reported on Sunrise Senior Living Center event, food truck event, and several future events; and member Dan O'Brien's wife passed away in North Carolina. November speakers were Leeza Kelley (Grand Canyon University Development Counselor Military Division) and Ashley Smith (also a Counselor at Grand Canyon University). They gave a Grand Canyon Veterans' Benefits Presentation. Topics they spoke on included: No veteran has 0 credits--veteran's credits for military experience; and the new Forever GI Bill allowing transfer of educational benefits to a dependent. Good of the Legion included: 'Run for the Fallen' report; American Education Week report; Boxes to the Troops report (\$3000 to ship boxes or \$18.45 per box); and District 12 Dinner and Auction tickets are available for \$15 per person (event to be held at Chandler Post 35 on February 1, 2020). The meeting was closed by Post 64 Commander Pete Meier at 1710 hours with snacks and refreshment following.

November 24-30, 2019, was National Family Week.

Thursday, November 28, 2019, was Thanksgiving Day. The Ahwatukee Recreation Center hosted the annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner (\$15 per adult). Two hundred attended including many Post 64 members to enjoy the company and catered dinner.

Wednesday, December 4, 2019, was the Ahwatukee Recreation Center Holiday Boutique (2 to 7 pm). The event featured ARC artists and Post 64 had a table set up for poppy donations (collected \$150) and raffles. Several Post 64 members attended and worked that event.

Friday, December 6, 2019, was the 'Massing of Colors' annual event hosted by the JROTC at Marcos de Niza High School in Tempe. Post 64 provided its 'Colors' for the event. Two Post 64 members attended the ceremony.

Saturday, December 7, 2019, was the Wesley Bolin Plaza Pearl Harbor Day Celebration. Post 64 Color Guard took part in that annual tribute to service members that lost their life on December 7, 1941. Also, that same day, Post 64 set up three Christmas trees and three boxes of Christmas gifts at the Carl T. Hayden Phoenix VA Medical Center for the veterans.

Sunday, December 8, 2019, was the Vietnam Memorial Plaque Dedication Ceremony. The ceremony was conducted by American Legion Sacaton Post 84 (1 pm) and held at Sacaton Memorial Park.

Wednesday, December 11, 2019, was the Post 64 Executive Committee Meeting. The meeting was called to order by Post 64 Commander Pete Meier at 1600 hours with ten members in attendance. Items covered during that meeting included: Elliot Rd. clean-up (December 14, 8 am); Memorial Service for James S. Mooney (Korea / Vietnam U.S. Navy veteran) at

Mountain View Lutheran Church on December 21; 100th birthday celebration for U.S. Army veteran Edwin Wilner (Mesa Hospice House 1-7-2020); and Winterfest Post 64 / Veterans Club on January 18, 2020. The meeting was closed by Post 64 Commander Pete Meier at 1645 hours.

Friday, December 13, 2019, was the National Guard's birthday.

Saturday, December 14, 2019, was the Conrado Francisco Bilducia American Legion Post 124 and Auxiliary Unit 124 Veterans Dinner. The Dinner was open to all veterans and immediate family. The dinner was funded by Arizona Department of Veterans Services and held at the Pascua Yaqui Tribe's complex (9504 S. Avenida del Yaqui, Guadalupe, AZ 85283). The annual dinner was 12 to 2 pm. Roger and Deb Munchbach attended representing Post 64. That same day, Christmas presents were delivered to the Guadalupe Senior Center. Gifts were a result of a Christmas gift tree set up in the lobby of the Ahwatukee Recreation Center. Also, a Christmas candy basket was set up near the coffee station at the Ahwatukee Recreation Center. The Christmas candy basket in an annual 'thank-you' from Ahwatukee American Legion Post 64 to all the members of the ARC. December 14 was the Elliot Rd. clean-up. A crew of four Post 64 members took part, making the street cleaner for the local Ahwatukee residents.

Sunday, December 15, 2019, was 'Bill of Rights' Day.

Monday, December 16, 2019, was 'Save the Family' Holiday Sponsorship Day. Post 64 delivered presents and donations (valued at \$610) to 'Save the Family' (125 E. University Dr., Mesa, AZ 85201). 'Save the Family' is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID #86-0665712. Seven Post 64 volunteers worked to make sure this veteran's family of five had a great Christmas (Douglas, Daniela, Caravaggiao, Giadia, and Ilaria).

Tuesday, December 17, 2019, 200 presents for kids in the Guadalupe area were delivered. The presents were valued at \$1250 and were for the annual Guadalupe Christmas Event.

Wednesday, December 18, 2019, was the Post 64 General Membership Meeting. The meeting was called to order in the ballroom of the Ahwatukee Recreation Center by Post 64 Commander Pete Meier at 1605 hours with twenty-two in attendance. Items covered at that meeting included: Membership report (Ken Dembiec) 169 paid or 82% of goal; Service Officer report (Ed Mangan); Chaplain's Report (Rebecca Schmidt) Darlene O'Brien's passing; Color Guard Report (Dave VonTersch) street clean-up and services for Jim Mooney at Mountain View Lutheran Church on December 21; Winterfest preparations; Ahwatukee Chamber of Commerce membership renewal; Christmas trees at the Phoenix VA Hospital; Army / Navy game; Gifts from ARC to the Senior Center in Guadalupe; 'Save the Family' veteran family in the east valley (\$610 total value of gifts); Open House on January 4 at ARC; and the Christmas candy basket. The special speaker was former pastor Don Seeman. Don talked about distressed veterans and the need for a new 'Ahwatukee Veterans Group' with a startup date of January 4 from 9 to 10:30 am at Living Word Church (near 50th St. in Ahwatukee). It is a Christ-centered approach to issues and needs of nearby veterans. The meeting was closed at 1655 hours by Commander Pete Meier, and was followed by conversation and refreshments.

Saturday, December 21, 2019, was the Memorial Service for U.S. Navy Veteran (Korean era) James S. Mooney. Services were held at Mountain View Lutheran Church and conducted by Rev. Annemarie Burke. Ten members from Ahwatukee Post 64 took part in a short American Legion Memorial Service and Flag Folding Ceremony. A luncheon reception followed the service.

Sunday, December 22, 2019, was the beginning of Hanukkah.

Wednesday, December 25, 2019, was Christmas Day.

Sunday, December 29, 2019, Post 64 members returned to the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center to remove the three Christmas trees and retrieve the three empty gift boxes.

Wednesday, January 1, 2020, was New Year's Day.

Saturday, January 4, 2020, was the Annual Open House at Arizona Department Headquarters (4701 N. 19th Ave., Phoenix, AZ). Five Post 64 members attended the Noon to 5 pm event. That same day, long-time Ahwatukee Post 64 Officer Robert Wayne Enns transferred to Post Everlasting. Bob was a Marine Corps Vietnam era veteran and served for many years as an officer and chairman at Post 64.

Tuesday, January 7, 2020, was the 100 year birthday for Post 64 member Edwin Wilner. The party was held in Fellowship Square Senior Living Center in Historic Mesa. Six Post 64 members and 100 visitors attended the celebration. Post 64 Commander Pete Meier presented Ed with a certificate and an Ahwatukee Post 64 ball cap at that event.

Wednesday, January 8, 2020, was the monthly Post 64 Executive Committee Meeting. The meeting was called to order by Post 64 Commander Peter Meier at 1600 hours with ten members in attendance. Items covered included: Winterfest plans and programs; Christmas trees at the VA; Bob Enns' passing; and Ed Wilner's birthday party. The meeting was closed by Post 64 Commander Pete Meier at 1645 hours.

Thursday, January 9, 2020, the Post received a 'Thank You' card from the family that was sponsored by Post 64. That veteran's family had a great Christmas thanks to the efforts of Post 64 and its members.

Wednesday, January 15, 2020, was the American Legion Ahwatukee Post 64 General Membership Meeting. The meeting was called to order at 1602 hours in the Ahwatukee Recreation Center ballroom by Post 64 Commander Pete Meier with thirty in attendance. Items covered at that meeting included: Membership report (Bob Smithson) 177 paid or 85.5% of goal; Service Officer report (none given); Chaplain's report (Rebecca Schmitt) Bob Enns' Memorial Service and reception set for February 21, 2020; and Mary Williams recovering from hand surgery; Color Guard report (David VonTersch) Winterfest and DAR (in Mesa) programs; Good of the Legion (Brenda Smull) January 23-24 Arizona Stand Down; February 13 Vet Talks at the University of Phoenix at River Point; District 12 Rehab Dinner and Auction at Post 35 Chandler on February 1; 'Save the Family' thank-you card received; Post 64 name tags available after the meeting; Street clean-up (no date set yet); and Roddy Charlton spoke about the U.S. flag drop box and possible decorations. The meeting was closed at 1702 hours by Post 64 Commander Pete Meier with refreshment and snacks following.

Thursday, January 16, 2020, the Post received a thank you letter from the East Valley Food Bank for the Post 64 donation of \$50. United Food Bank provides more than 61,000 meals per day to neighbors in need (Dave Richins, President / CEO United Food Bank, 245 S. Nina Dr., Mesa, AZ 85210 www.unitedfoodbank.org 480-926-4897).

Saturday, January 18, 2020, was the Ahwatukee Post 64 / Veterans Club annual Winterfest Holiday Party. Doors opened at 1700 hours with 175 present (\$25 per person) for the event. The event began with a welcome from Ahwatukee Post 64 Commander Pete Meier, followed by the Post 64 POW / MIA Table Ceremony. The ceremony was moderated by Past Post 64 Commander Ed Mangan with Ed Doney providing the background music. Color Guard members were Brenda Smull, Pete Meier, Bob Smithson, Roddy Charlton, Roger Munchbach,

John Boyer and Color Guard Commander Dave VonTersch. Post 64 Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt gave the blessing, and dinner was served (choice of beef medallions or chicken marsala). After dinner, one of the top dance bands in Arizona, the Rhythm Edition, brought musical life to the party. Raffles included both baskets and a 50/50 drawing.

Saturday, February 1, 2020, was the Annual District 12 Dinner / Auction and Raffle Fund Raising Even hosted by Chandler Post 35. Tickets were \$15 per person, no host bar (1600 hours) and dinner was served at 1700 hours (choice of prime rib or pork tenderloin). Post 64 had a total of 23 at the event and donated six items for the auction (total donation was \$667.50 for the event).

Sunday, February 2, 2020, was the American Legion Family National Security Workshop, including Children & Youth, Americanism, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation. The workshop was hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary and held at Apache Post 27 (1018 S. Meridian Rd., Apache Junction, AZ 85120). The event was from 1000 hours to 1400 hours and two from Post 64 were in attendance. One guest was Navy JROTC instructor LCDR Gary Lock, U.S. Navy (Ret). Navy Commander Lock was very interested in several American Legion programs. Contact information for LCDR Lock is Apache Junction High School, 2525 S. Ironwood Dr., Apache Junction, AZ 85120 glock@goaj.org 480-982-1110 ex 5347, cell 360-929-2573, fax 480-982-2787

Monday, February 3, 2020, was the annual filing for American Legion Ahwatukee Post 64, Inc. with the IRS. Ahwatukee Post 64 (EIN: 27-4573535) submitted Form 990-N (e-Postcard) for tax year 2019. Filing with the IRS was submitted, accepted, and confirmed on 02-03-2020.

Saturday, February 8, 2020, was the ARC Clubs and Groups 'Open House'. Four Ahwatukee Post 64 members manned the table representing the American Legion. The event was 9:30 am until noon and Post 64 took poppy donations, handed out membership material, and conducted free flag raffles that morning.

Sunday, February 9, 2020, was the Memorial Service for U.S. veteran Robert 'Doc' Graves. The Celebration of Life was held in the Ahwatukee Recreation Center ballroom. Four Post 64 members attended the tribute for 'Doc' who was Past Post 64 Commander Rod Green's father-in-law.

Thursday, February 13, 2020, was the annual 'Vets Talk' hosted by the University of Phoenix at River Point. One of the speakers giving information to veterans and family members present was Post 64 member Brenda Smull.

Friday, February 14, 2020, was Valentine's Day. Post 64 delivered 340 Valentine's Day cards to veterans at the Arizona State Veterans Nursing Home.

Saturday, February 15, 2020, was the District 11 / District 12 American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program, 'A Constitutional Speech Contest'. The contest was hosted Chandler 35 and moderated by District 12 Oratorical Chairman Ole Bjerk. Two Post 64 members attended the contest. The District 11 contestant was 11th grade student from Verrado High School Caleb Doercksen. Caleb's oration was titled 'The Liberty Tree'. The District 12 contestant was 10th grade student Lauren St. Leger from BASIS High School in Ahwatukee. Lauren's oration was titled 'I Tried to Vote'. Caleb and Lauren were winners from District 11 and District 12 respectively, and each received \$200, a certificate, and congratulations on their fine efforts.

Monday, February 17, 2020, was Presidents Day.

Wednesday, February 19, 2020, was the Ahwatukee American Legion Post 64 General Membership Meeting. The meeting was called to order by Ahwatukee Post 64 Commander Pete Meier in the Ahwatukee Recreation Center ballroom at 1615 hours with 27 in attendance. The following items were covered at that meeting: Membership report (Bob Smithson) 190 of 207 or 91.8% of post goal; Finance Officer (Jay Hendrix) 175 attended the Annual Post 64 Holiday Party with a net profit of \$1747; Adjutant (Roger Munchbach) reported that taxes for 1/1/2019 to 12/31/2019 were filed and accepted by the IRS on 02/03/2020: Form 990-N for Ahwatukee American Legion Post 64, Inc., Employee Identification Number 27-4573535; Sick call--Bill McLellan fell and is out of rehab; and Color Guard (Dave VonTersch) February 9 Doc Graves Memorial / Celebration of Life; February 21 Bob Enns Interment Service at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona followed by a Celebration of Life and reception at the Ahwatukee Country Club; flag preparation for the annual Easter parade; June 13 Evolution of the Flag Program for the DAR in Mesa. Old Business; Social Hours at local pubs and restaurants to recruit new members; Boys State money may be necessary; Oratorical contests on February 22 and March 7; School Awards to be ordered; Desert Point Garden Club member Sandra Everett to speak at a future meeting; possible event for the San Tan DAR in the fall; 340 Valentine cards to the Arizona State Veterans Home; February 1 twenty-three Post 64 members and guests attended the District 12 Rehab Dinner and Auction with the Post contributing \$667.50 that evening; February 2 was the National Security and Children & Youth Workshop; February 13 was the 'Vets Talk' with Brenda Smull as a main speaker; and street clean-up on March 7. Good of the Legion and an introduction of guests and new members was followed by the closing of the Post 64 meeting by Commander Pete Meier at 1710 hours. Refreshments and snacks followed the meeting.

Friday, February 21, 2020, was the Interment and Celebration of Life for Robert Wayne Enns. Interment was 1000 hours at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona, and the Celebration of Life was held from 1200 to 1500 hours at the Ahwatukee Country Club.

Saturday, February 22, 2020, was the Sacaton Parade and the Area B American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program 'A Constitutional Speech Contest'. The scholarship contest was hosted by Apache Post 27 at 0900 hours. The event was conducted by Oratorical Chairman Ole Bjerk and assisted by Roger and Deb Munchbach. Caleb Doercksen from District 11 and Verrado High Ahwatukee School took 1st place (\$300) and Lauren St. Leger from District 12 and BASIS High School took 2nd place (\$200).

Saturday, March 7, 2020, was the Ahwatukee Post 64 quarterly Elliot Rd. clean-up. Five Post 64 members took part in that community service project, making the streets of Ahwatukee a cleaner, healthier place. Also, that same day, was the American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program, 'A constitutional Speech Contest', the Finals for the Department of Arizona. The contest was hosted by Mesa Post 26 and moderated by Area B Oratorical Chairman Ole Bjerk. The contest started at 1000 hours with 5 students taking part. Two contestants from Area A, two contestants from Area B and one contestant from Area C competed for the title of Arizona State Champion and the chance to win the \$20,000 top prize at the National Contest. Judges for the contest included: Brenda Smull (former U.S. Army Captain, Charles Schwab supervisor and Public Relations Officer for Ahwatukee Post 64); Rose Ficklin (Auxiliary Department of Arizona Historian, Transportation Specialist for the Mesa School District, and Unit 26 member); Jon C. Altmann (Ret. U.S. Navy First Chief Petty Officer, Masters Degree in Education, History teacher, and American Legion member); Wayne Chatfield (Western Regional Director for the Boys Scouts of America, Department of Arizona

Americanism Chairman, and member of Glendale Post 29); Rebecca McMenimen (retired school teacher and member of the San Tan Daughters of the American Revolution); and Marcia A. Whipkey (retired school teacher and member of the San Tan Daughters of the American Revolution). Results of the contest were: 1st and 4th place went to Area B, 2nd and 3rd place went to Area A, and 5th place went to Area C. The contest winner was Caleb Doercksen. Caleb collected \$1,500 and the chance to compete in the National Finals in Indianapolis.

Sunday, March 8, 2020, was the annual District 12 picnic. The picnic was hosted by Phoenix Post 41.

Wednesday, March 11, 2020, was the Ahwatukee Post 64 Executive Committee Meeting. The meeting was called to order at 1600 hours by Post 64 Commander Pete Meier with ten members in attendance (Alice, Bob, Deb, Jay, Roger, Pete, Dave, Ed, Roddy, and Rebecca). Items covered at that meeting included: Easter parade--no hot dog picnic or jazz band concert at ARC due to the pandemic; the ARC storage building was remodeled; No U.S. flags posted around the remodeled parking lot; Girl Scout project update on unserviceable flag drop box; Thank you card and \$50 donation from Judy Enns; \$100 Post 64 donation to be given to the Patriot Riders; Roddy Charlton volunteered to dispose of old U.S. flags dropped off at ARC; the Chaplain's 'Remembrance Ceremony Program' will be held at the May Post 64 General Membership Meeting; and Roddy is available to speak at a future Post 64 meeting. The meeting was closed by Post 64 Commander Pete Meier at 1700 hours.

Sunday, March 15, 2020, was the District 12 meeting. The meeting was hosted by Fountain Hills Post 58. Roger Munchbach did not attend due to the pandemic, but the Americanism report was emailed in before the start of the meeting.

Monday, March 16, 2020, all Department Oratorical winners names were due into National Headquarters.

Tuesday, March 17, 2020, was St. Patrick's Day.

Wednesday, March 18, 2020, the Ahwatukee Post 64 General Membership Meeting was scheduled but did not take place due to the closing of the Ahwatukee Recreation Center (coronavirus pandemic).

Friday, March 20, 2020, an email was received from National Commander James W. Oxford and Jill K. Druskis, National Director Americanism Division, with a 'Notice of Cancellation of the 2020 American Legion National Oratorical Contest in Indianapolis'. The contest was cancelled due to the coronavirus (COVID-19). Also, a letter was received from the American Legion Arizona Boys State (Larry Bahill, Director, Arizona Boys State), that "due to concerns over the COVID-19 outbreak, we have decided to cancel the 2020 Arizona Boys State session".

Saturday, March 21, 2020, the St. Patrick's Day Potluck Dinner Party at the Smull home was cancelled due to the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Wednesday, March 25, 2020, was Congressional Medal of Honor Day.

On March 27, 2020, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) giving U.S. citizens an Economic Impact Payment by direct deposit.

Wednesday, April 1, 2020, Ahwatukee Post 64 Membership 'Buddy Calls' program began. Several Post 64 officers divided up the post 64 membership roster and began calling Post 64 members to determine how members were doing during the pandemic and if Post 64 could be of any assistance for their needs.

Saturday, April 4, 2020, the scheduled U.S. Vets picnic (1100 to 1600 hours) was cancelled due to the corona virus (COVID-19).

Sunday, April 5, 2020, was Palm Sunday.

Wednesday, April 8, 2020, the Post received a request for assistance from Michael Achey (Volunteer Services, VA Medical Center) for veteran James Watt (IT Volunteer). James needed \$1050 for past due rent. Thursday, April 9, 2020, Post 64 agreed to donate \$250 for past due rent money for veteran James Watt, and Post 64 member Doug Patterson got approval from the Marine Corps League to donate the remaining amount.

Friday, April 10, 2020, was Good Friday.

Saturday, April 11, 2020, the scheduled annual Ahwatukee Easter Parade was cancelled due to the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Sunday, April 12, 2020, was Easter Sunday.

Wednesday, April 15, 2020, the scheduled Ahwatukee Post 64 General Membership Meeting was cancelled due to the coronavirus (COVID-19). Also, that same day many Americans received a letter signed by U.S. President Donald J. Trump, concerning the economic impact stimulus payment. May 2020, was the completion of the Ahwatukee Recreation Center Grounds Renewal Project 2019 / 2020.

Thursday, May 7, 2020, Centennial Middle School received American Legion School Awards for two students, Owen Klanke and Tamia Huckaby. Each received a certificate, medallion, poppy, stuffed animal, \$10, and a U.S. flag kit. Due to the coronavirus pandemic Post 64 was unable to make the award presentations in person. The contact person at the school was Elizabeth Reynoso.

Saturday, May 9, 2020, Post 64 began work on the annual Consolidated Post Report.

Sunday, May 10, 2020, was Mother's Day.

May 10-16, 2020, was National Law Enforcement Week.

Wednesday, May 13, 2020, Altadena Middle School received American Legion School Awards for two students, Joshua Carter and Danica McCarron. Each received a certificate, medallion, poppy, \$50, and a U.S. flag kit. All award items were delivered by Past Post 64 Commander Ed Mangan. The contact person at Altadena Middle School was Anne Walsh.

Friday, May 15, 2020, was Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Saturday, May 16, 2020, was U.S. Armed Forces Day. Also, that same day, the annual Ahwatukee American Legion Post 64 Consolidated Post Report for 2019-2020 was completed through mylegion.org.

Sunday, May 17, 2020, the scheduled District 12 Meeting at Post 107 was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Also, that same day, the annual Post 64 Community Service Report for 2019-2020 was completed.

Tuesday, May 19, 2020, an update of AmericanLegionPost64.com website was done. The update included: Post 64 Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt's Remembrance and listing of Post 64 members who passed in the last year, a Memorial Prayer, and a link to the Legacy Memorial (an engine to search for veterans interred at national cemeteries).

Wednesday, May 20, 2020, the scheduled Ahwatukee Post 64 General Membership Meeting was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Also, that same day, *The Ahwatukee Foothills News* carried a front page article entitled "Memorial Day Ceremonies also Fall to Pandemic" and starting on page 10, an article entitled "Legion Post 64 Remembers Recently Passed Comrades". The second article included: the nine Post 64 members that passed during

this year with a brief military bio, a short prayer, and a photo of the Ahwatukee Post 64 Color / Honor Guard.

Friday, May 22, 2020, was Maritime Day and National Poppy Day.

Saturday, May 23, 2020, the annual Ahwatukee Post 64 Color Guard Report was completed.

Monday, May 25, 2020, was Memorial Day (observed).

Tuesday, May 26, 2020, the Membership Star Award Report was completed.

Wednesday, June 10, 2020, was the Zoom Ahwatukee Post 64 Executive Committee Meeting. The meeting was rescheduled due to inability to connect thru Zoom. Also, Rod Green was placed on the sick call list due to a surgical procedure today.

Friday, June 12, 2020, was Women Veterans' Day.

Saturday, June 13, 2020, there was a DAR flag program scheduled. That program was cancelled due to the coronavirus restrictions.

Sunday, June 14, 2020, was Flag Day and the U.S. Army Birthday. The Ahwatukee Post 64 Annual Flag Disposal Program was cancelled due to the coronavirus restrictions, but the new flag drop boxes at the Ahwatukee Recreation Center are up and available to receive old worn-out U.S. flags.

Sunday, June 21, 2020, was Father's Day.