



**AHWATUKEE AMERICAN LEGION POST 64
OCTOBER 2019**

<http://www.americanlegionpost64.com/>

**CHECK OUT THE POST WEBSITE. INFORMATION INCLUDED:
Photos, Newsletters, Uniforms, Veterans' Benefits, Congressional Contacts, Items of Interest,
Links to other Veterans' Websites, Flag Etiquette, and Much More !**

1. COMMANDER'S COMMENTS: (from Commander Pete Meier)

Welcome back for the 2019/2020 season. Finally the temp's have broken and are in the comfortable range. Our meeting hours have changed for the new season; we will now be starting at 4 PM in order to appeal to the working veterans who would have an easier time to get off work to join us for our meetings. We will monitor this change and see how it works out. At our first meeting we decided to donate a new Flag Pole for the ARC parking lot when it is finished. We'll plan on having a flag raising and dedication ceremony and making an event of this with the Color Guard and ARC Management. We also discussed ways of handling the commercial quantities of flags for disposal being dropped off at the ARC front desk which is a problem that needs to be solved. Anyone with any ideas please let us know.

We will not be having an "OKTOBERFEST" party this year due to the parking limitations; also, the ARC's annual Arts and Crafts Fair is cancelled for the same reason. The ARC will be putting out some information for having an all CLUB's Celebration Party by the end of the year including us to make up for some of this. Parking lot is due to be completed by the end of NOV.

Our Color Guard participated with the AHWATUKEE CHAMBER in welcoming Mayor Gallegos to the community and giving us an update of what is going on in Ahwatukee and the city of Phoenix.

We will be having our QRTRLY Street clean up Sat. 9/28/19. We start at 8 AM at the Safeway parking lot at 48th & Elliot and make our way west to Equestrian Trail. It takes about 2 hrs., and we have donuts, water, and OJ for nourishment. Come join us sometime in the future if you can and are able to walk a mile. This allows us to have our name AHWATUKEE AMERICAN LEGION POST #64 on 2 street signs at the beginning and end of our assigned stretch of street.

Please join us at our next meeting at 4PM 10/16/19 at the ARC. See you there !



2. CONDOLENCES:



To the family of Col. Alfred Alvarez, ret. US Air Force. Alfred transferred to Post Everlasting on July 14, 2019. He was a Vietnam veteran and a 7 year member of the American Legion.

3. MEMBERSHIP: (from First Vice Commander Bob Smithson)

2020 to date: Total roster (227); Total paid (118); Expired (8); Transfers in (14); New (2); Deceased (3). Our 2020 goal is 207 paid members. We are presently at 118 paid or 57% of goal.

Thanks to all those who have renewed early. For those who have not renewed yet the best way is to go online at www.legion.org/renew. It may prevent you from getting another renewal notice in the mail.

A reminder, especially to the newer members, that the American Legion Membership year is calendar-based. We begin our renewal cycle 6 months early in order to provide our members plenty of time to renew and possess their ID Card for the entire January through December period.

Another reminder, any veteran that has served at least 1 day active duty since December 7, 1941, and was honorably discharged or is now serving is eligible to join the American Legion. When you come across a veteran just ask if they are a Legion member, and if not ask that person if they would like to join. It's that simple to recruit new members. Most veterans say they have never been asked before. Use your membership application to sign them up or refer them to me. Any member that recruits 3 new members this year will be eligible to receive an "American Legion Appreciation" coin.

4. COLOR GUARD: (from Color Guard Commander Dave VonTersch)

Please be sure to check the calendar at the end of the newsletter for upcoming events. If you have any questions be sure to contact Dave. Contact info for all officers is further on in this newsletter.



5. MINUTES FROM THE MEETING: SEPTEMBER 18, 2019 22 members and guests were present.

There will be no Post Golf Tournament this Fall. We hope to have it next spring.

Bob Smithson reported that the membership for the new 2019-2020 year is already at 54% of goal. The Legion Act was signed by President Trump on July 30, 2019, which opened membership in the American Legion to all Honorably Discharged veterans who have had at least one day of active duty since December 7, 1941. (Basic Training for Reserves and Guard qualifies as active duty.) THERE ARE NO MORE ELIGIBILITY GAPS !!! There is a Post Revitalization Drive scheduled for Arizona from Oct 24-26. Bob Smithson and Ken Dembiec will participate. During this drive they will make many phone calls to local veterans, asking them to join and/or transfer to Post 64, and we thank them for their efforts.

Currently the dues you pay to Post 64 are \$30 per year. When First Vice Commander Bob Smithson forwards the dues to Department, he sends \$27 of every individual's dues onward. In other words, Post 64 only keeps \$3 per year from every member. Beginning January 1, 2020, he is going to have to forward \$28 of every membership, and then with each new membership year (beginning in July) the amount he sends will increase by another \$1 for each of the following 4 years. This was passed at the Department of Arizona Convention in June. We have no choice in the matter. SO . . . the Executive Committee of Post 64 is recommending that we raise the Post 64 dues to \$35 beginning with the 2020-2021 membership year, or one year from now. Dues for 2019-2020 would remain at \$30. The vote on this will take place at the October 16 Post 64 meeting. All members are encouraged to attend the next meeting to voice their opinion and vote.

Finance Officer Jay Hendrix reported \$9044 in the Post checking account.

Adjutant Roger Munchbach reported on all of the Post and Legion activities which took place over the summer.

Ed Mangan is the Post Service Officer and is ready to assist any veterans who contact him.

Color Guard Commander Dave VonTersch reported on a Flag Raising event at Kyrene Traditional Academy in Chandler on September 11 and Presentation of Colors at Meet the Mayor night on September 16.

We are receiving large numbers of flags which need appropriate disposal, and these are taking up considerable space in our storage room. Despite the fact that we hold the retirement program in June and handle the disposal of flags all year long, the numbers we are receiving keep increasing. We need to come up with an additional way or place to handle increasing quantities. It is very rewarding to know that the community is responding to the education which we provide about proper flag display and replacement. If there is anyone out there who could host a bonfire once or twice a year to provide proper disposal of worn out flags, please contact any of the officers listed in this newsletter.

The Arizona Run for the Fallen Event will be October 18-20, 2019. Bob Smithson plans to have a group of members with the Post Colors greet the runners when they stop at I-10 and Baseline at 8:40 am on Sunday October 20 at the farthest Northwest corner of Fry's Electronics store on Baseline Rd. We should gather around 8:15 at the corner. Bob will bring the Post and Honor and Remember flags. Uniform is not required, but nice, or a Legion hat or cap would be nice. Post 64 has met the runners at this point many times in the past. The Post also donated \$150 to the event.

Support the Troops will be wrapping and boxing packages on November 13 and 14, beginning at 9 am.

The current parking lot renovation at ARC has turned into a LARGE PROJECT because of the need to upgrade every aspect of the parking lot to 2019 city code. The building is open, but parking is much reduced. This has curtailed several activities which the Post had scheduled. There will be no Oktoberfest this year, but later, when the construction is done, the Post hopes to plan another event. ARC has modified several of their annual yearly events which would have taken place in the next 3-4 months, and has made them for members only with minimal advertising. Because of that, we will not list specific days and times for those events in the Post 64 newsletter. Those of you who are ARC members can obtain the information through their website at arcaz.net

The Post approved the purchase of a new telescoping flag pole to be installed in the parking lot at ARC at the appropriate time. A dedication ceremony of some type will be planned in the future.

6. POST 64 OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN FOR 2019-2020

COMMANDER	PETE MEIER	602-690-3361	petemeier@cox.net
FIRST VICE COMMANDER	BOB SMITHSON	480-496-0705	busibob@aol.com
ASSISTANT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN	KEN DEMBIEC	480-206-3098	singingdebbie@hotmail.com
SECOND VICE COMMANDER	DOUG PATTERSON	602-791-6843	dpatterson27@cox.net
ADJUTANT/HISTORIAN	ROGER MUNCHBACH	480-705-9527	munchaz@msn.com
FINANCE OFFICER	JAY HENDRIX	480-831-9121	jayhendrix@cox.net
CHAPLAIN	REBECCA SCHMIDT	602-292-8401	rebeccacinaz@aol.com
SERVICE OFFICER	ED MANGAN	602-501-0128	emangan3@aol.com
SGT-AT-ARMS/COLOR GUARD CMDR.	DAVE VONTERSCH	480-753-4166	djvontersch@q.com
ASST. SGT-AT-ARMS/COLOR GUARD COMDR.	RODDY CHARLTON	480-993-6980	wrcinaz@aol.com
PUBLIC INFORMATION	BRENDA SMULL	303-301-4429	bsmull@me.com
REFRESHMENT CHAIRMAN	ALICE MAYNARD	480-244-6539	amaynard2007@yahoo.com

7. REMEMBER WHEN (Installment #6 reviewing the first 25 years of Post 64): *Earlier installments are available online in the newsletters of February thru June 2019*

JUNE 2003 TO JUNE 2004

Department Commander was Roger Upchurch. Post Commander was Ray Kubiak. Color Guard Commander was Bob Bowden. During the year the Color Guard presented Colors or other patriotic flag programs at Centennial Middle School, Mountain Pointe High School, Altadena Middle School, ARC, Akimel Middle School, and AZ Project Challenge.

From mid 2002 until April 2009, all of the Post's belongings were faithfully stored by Charlie Roloff in his garage. Sometime during these years, the M1 rifles which had been loaned to us by Department Headquarters in 1996, were returned to them following an inspection by the US government on items that had been "loaned" over the past decades. This inspection focused on proper storage, and since the Post was unable to store the rifles in a locked gun safe, they were returned.

July 4 was celebrated in conjunction with ARC. The Post promoted the World War II Memorial under construction in Washington DC.

The membership goal was reached before December 31, 2003. In March 2004 there were 126 members. April was recorded as 120%.

Meetings continued on the third Wednesday of the month at 3 pm at ARC, with guest speakers after the business concluded.

Patriotic Day was at Akimel Middle School on April 2, 2004. The Easter Parade was April 10, 2004. This year, Ahwatukee firefighters helped to carry the special burial flags of local veterans.

May 29-31 the Post grilled and sold hot dogs outside Ace Hardware at 48th St. and Warner Rd., and finished the hot weekend with a Memorial Day program outside the store.

On May 29, 2004, several members attended the dedication of the World War II Memorial in Washington DC.

Department Convention was held at the Sheraton San Marcos in Chandler.

JUNE 2004 TO JUNE 2005

Department Commander was Paul Griffin. Post Commander was George Pogue. Color Guard Commander was Bob Bowden. Flag presentation and patriotic programs were done by the Color Guard at ARC, Akimel Middle School, Altadena Middle School, Centennial Middle School, and Daughters of Great Briton.

Renee Roloff passed away on November 17, 2004.

Post 64 led the Easter Parade on March 26, 2005. April 1, 2005, was Patriotic Day at Akimel Middle School.

100% membership was attained by April 2005.

Boys State citizen from Mountain Pointe High School was Alex Munchbach and from Desert Vista High School was Christopher Nagata. Christopher went on to attend Boys Nation and was a Jr./Sr. Counselor at AZ Boys State for many years to follow. Alex also received an American Legion School Award and was a Jr. Counselor at AZ Boys State.

From May 28-30, 2005, Post members grilled and sold hot dogs at Ace Hardware at 48th St. and Warner Rd., ending the weekend with a Memorial Day program outside the store. \$500.00 of the proceeds was donated to the AZ State Veterans Home.

Department Convention was held at the Wigwam Resort in Litchfield Park from June 16-19, 2005.

JUNE 2005 TO JUNE 2006

Department Commander was Larry Cox. Post Commander was Thomas Smith. Color Guard Commander was Bob Bowden. Flag presentations and patriotic programs were done by the Color Guard at Akimel Middle School, Centennial Middle School, Altadena Middle School, ARC, and AZ Project Challenge.

In October 2005, members participated in the Phoenix Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Walk.

Post 64 members were guests of Post 124 in the Guadalupe Veterans Day Parade on November 11, 2005.

Flowers were delivered to area schools during National Education Week, November 13 to 19, 2005.

Wal-Mart gave Post 64 a \$2000.00 grant for continued community service.

Pete Meier joined Post 64 in February 2006.

Patriotic Day was March 3, 2006, at Akimel Middle School.

The Easter Parade, hot dog feed, and jazz band concert were on April 15, 2006.

Poppies were distributed at Mt. View Lutheran Church on May 28, 2006, raising \$183.00.

The Post reached 100% membership in June 2006.

Department Convention was held at the Wigwam Resort in Litchfield Park from June 15-18, 2006.



**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
DISTRICT 11 & 12
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**



→ → NEW DATE ← ←

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH, 4-8PM

Unexpected Venue

734 W Polk St. Phoenix, AZ 85007



- **SPECIALTY COCKTAILS AT LEGION PRICES**
- **FOOD STATIONS TO PLEASE ALL PALATES**



After party to follow @ 8PM:

Luke Greenway Post 1

354 N 7th Ave

Phoenix, AZ 85007

Get Tickets Online: <https://district11-12centennial.yapsody.com/event/index/419416/az-district-11-12-legion-centennial>



October 2019 * denotes Color Guard event**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Start of Operation Enduring Freedom 2001	8	9 Yom Kippur Executive Committee Meeting 4 pm at ARC	10	11	12
13 US Navy Birthday - 244 years	14 Columbus Day	15	16 *** Post General Membership Meeting 4 pm at ARC	17	18	19
20 *** Meet Run for the Fallen - Meet at 8:15 am, farthestmost NW corner of Fy's Electronics and Baseline	21	22	23 Beirut Bombing 1983	24 *** 5:15 pm Chamber of Commerce event. Presentation of Colors and Pledge at 6:03 pm	25 Invasion of Grenada 1983	26 District 11 and 12 Centennial Celebration (see ad in newsletter)
27 Navy Day - A salute to all sailors past and present	28	29	30	31 Halloween	Oct. 28 - Nov. 3 National Creative Arts Festival Kalamazoo, MI Nov. 5 Election Day Nov. 8 -10 Department of Arizona Fall Conference Tucson, AZ	