

THE AMERICAN LEGION – CENTENNIAL POST 209
P.O.Box 25334, Colorado Springs, CO 80936-5334
719-599-8624 al209@pcisys.net

August 2005 – NEWSLETTER

Membership Meeting

Saturday August 13, 2005

TREA, Breakfast 9:00 AM, Meeting 10:00 AM

Speaker: Vicky Kounk, Operation Home Front Cares

Officers' Comments

COMMANDER – Bill Marshall

Property

On July 9, 2005, with a quorum present at the Meeting of the General Membership, the majority vote was to sell the Post 209 property located at the corner of Austin Bluffs Parkway and Old Farm Drive. Therefore, in accordance with the Constitution, Article V, Section 1, the Board of Trustees is now representing The American Legion, Centennial Post 209, Department of Colorado, in all legal and binding agreements.

It is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to move in an expeditious and prudent manner to dispose of the property in the best interest of the Post and the membership. As recommended by the Executive Committee to the Board of Trustees, and agreed to, at the conclusion of the sale, \$50,000 will be placed in the General Account for the operation of the Post for the next two years. The remainder of the proceeds will be placed in an escrow account, thereby protecting it until such time as a suitable Post Home or smaller piece of property on which to build can be obtained. The Board will keep the membership advised of all actions.

National Convention

Penny and I will be attending the National Convention as delegates and have the following committee assignments: Penny, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation – Claims and Rating; myself, Economic - Employment and Veterans Preference. We will report to the membership in September.



Offer Too Good To Pass Up

Ace Hardware has contacted Post 209 with the attached offer for us to make some money. The Barnes family owns two stores in Colorado Springs: one at Galley and Circle by Cheers and one in the Bohn Shopping Center. They want to be involved in the community and are offering service organizations the opportunity to make some money and publicize their organization. I have selected September and October as our months to shop 'til we drop. I will publish the PIN in the September newsletter, and all you need to do is go in and buy, give the number to the checker, and you will receive a 10% discount on your purchase. You, your family, neighbors and friends can use the number for the discount, and at the end of each month we receive a check for the total of the discounts. How easy can that be? Also, they will give us space to set up a table on a Saturday and Sunday to tell the public about The American Legion. There is the possibility that the new store on Centennial Blvd. in the former McKinzey-White Bookstore will be open by October, and it can be used as well... more on that in the October newsletter. WOW, WHAT A DEAL! THANK YOU, ACE HARDWARE.

Asbestos Legislation

The attached letter to Senator Salazar (D-CO) is for you to review, and if you so desire, to send to the Senator. This is not an American Legion position, as there is no Resolution to lobby for it. However, Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) is a co-sponsor of the bill and there are two House bills along the same line. The idea is to get Senator Salazar onboard.

SR. VICE COMMANDER – W.W. Bandler

Thank you to all who attended the annual picnic. We had good food, fellowship and a very relaxed afternoon. Thank you Larry Johnson for grilling all the dogs, burgers and brats, not a one was burned. I hope to see all of you next year.

FINANCE OFFICER – Norm Moyer

I mentioned in the June Newsletter that I had received a shipment of 100 American Legion Auto Magnets. With the approval of the Executive Committee, we have received more than \$75 in donations from the American Legion Auto Magnets. Donations have been received at the General Membership and Executive Committee Meetings, the annual picnic, and by mail.

MEMBERSHIP COST ONLY \$5.00 (minimum donation)

Please submit your check payable to American Legion Post 209 to:

American Legion Post 209
P. O. Box 25334
Attn: Norm Moyer, Finance Officer
Colorado Springs, CO 80935-5334

I will immediately mail the American Legion Auto Magnet to you. You can proudly display it on your vehicle--truck or door.

The American Legion Auto Magnet is a very colorful red and white stripe with blue stars and the words "HONOR, LOYALTY, SERVICE, AMERICANISM" across the stripes. The American Legion insignia is proudly displayed in the center. These magnets symbolize the American Legion's continuous outstanding contributions and support to our country and servicemen and women.

ADJUTANT – Ann Foster

Membership is now at 137 for 2006... what a wonderful start toward our goal of 325 for this new Legion year. Please remember you do not have to wait on a renewal notice to come in the mail. You may send your check for \$30.00 to us at any time and receive full credit by National.

Junior Shooting had the National Finals at the USA Shooting building at the Olympic Training Center from 2 - 6 August. There were 15 in the Sporter class and 15 in the Precision class. These young people come from all over the country and have made their way through two postal matches to get here. There are 22 colleges that offer full scholarships to deserving shooters, and some of The American Legion contestants have been able to take advantage of this help. Others have gone on to the Olympics.

Pack 24

Cub Pack 24 will be starting up their activities soon after school opens for District 11. Please remember the Popcorn Drive will need us to help them. I will provide more information on this as soon as it is available.

August Speaker

The speaker for the August meeting will be Vicky Kounk from Operation Home Front Cares. With all of the returning deployed service personnel, as well as newly assigned units to our area, there is a real need for us to know how we may help.

CHAPLAIN – Mario Taracena

Howard Hornick

Howard has now been transferred to an Assisted Living Facility after an extended hospital stay. He is not doing too well and the encephalitis virus has left him with several problems. After a fall 6 weeks ago, he is now undergoing long-term physical therapy. I encourage all of you fellow Legionnaires to visit him as often as you can. Talking to people is wonderful therapy for him.

Howard is at the Life Care Center, 2490 International Circle, Colorado Springs. The phone number there is 630-8888.

Ilse Hoggenmiller

Ilse is the wife of Herman Hoggermiller and underwent surgery on July 19th at Penrose Main Hospital. Your prayers for a fast recovery will be appreciated.

Rosalie Fricke

Rosalie is the wife of Harold Fricke and underwent heart surgery on June 6th at Penrose Main. She is home and recovering well. In a few months she expects to be 100% back to her normal routine.

Larry Johnson

After a brief illness, Larry's younger brother passed away last month in Minnesota. Our prayers go out to Larry and his family.

The Surrender of Japan

After the cowardly attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the Japanese invaded most of the Pacific. Their grand design was to continue expanding their military and economic dominance (allied with Germany as the Tokyo-Berlin Axis).

1942: On August 7th, US Marines made an amphibious landing in Tulagie and took the Guadalcanal airport (an island of the Solomon Islands). This toehold on Guadalcanal was intolerable for the Japanese. They needed control of the entire chain of islands in order to stop US supply lines from Hawaii to Australia. The Japanese sank 3 US cruisers and one destroyer. On August 14th, the Japanese forces tried a nighttime attack on Guadalcanal through the jungle, but were discovered and mauled badly. Admiral Yamamoto was stunned. He was convinced of the invincibility and superiority of the Japanese. He landed his forces on August 22, but despite severe loses the Allies were victorious (Battle of the Easter Solomon Islands). On August 30th, the US Air Force bombed the Aleutian Islands where the Japanese were conducting raids to Alaska and the North Pacific.

The US and the Allies responded quickly and decisively. The months of August were especially memorable.

1943: On August 1st, groups of US PT-Boats started blocking the "Tokyo Express" convoy. On August 25th, the Allied troops completed the occupation of Kolombiangra and New Georgia Islands. Several Japanese destroyers and cruisers were sunk (Battle of Vella Gulf). By the end of August, US and Canadian forces had completely defeated the Japanese in the Aleutian Islands.

1944: On August 3rd, the USA and its Allies attacked and invaded Burma after a two-month siege. On the 8th, the Allies liberated Tinian, Saipan and Guam (Battle of the Mariana Islands), now a US commonwealth.

1945: On August 6th, the 1st Atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, and belatedly the USSR declared war on Japan. On August 9th, the second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. This prompted Emperor Hirohito and Prime Minister Suzuki to seek an immediate peace with the US. On August 14th, Japan accepted unconditional surrender to General MacArthur. The US troops land near Tokyo to begin its occupation.

Nazi Germany had surrendered unconditionally on May 7, 1945. The war of the Pacific and Southeast Asia with Japan unfortunately continued defiantly. The allies sent an ultimatum to Japan demanding unconditional surrender on July 26th. Prime Minister Suzuki ignored it and made plans to fortify and fight to the end, even house-to-house resistance. He hoped that attacking the home island would be at a great cost to the invaders. Japan had a 5-million man army with 2 million of those stationed at home. The US determined that after the bloody amphibious invasion of Okinawa*, over 500,000 troops would be needed in the planned invasion rescheduled for November 1st. Against that possibility, President Truman finally gave the order to use an Atomic bomb in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Emperor Hirohito delivered a radio address to the nation on August 15th that the war was futile to continue. The formal capitulation ceremony of Japan took place September 2nd on board the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

* The Okinawa campaign was the largest battle (October 10, 1944 – June 29, 1945). More ships, supplies, carriers, troops and firepower were used than in any other operation. Casualties were more than 38,000 US troops wounded and 13,000 killed (5,000 Navy and 8,000 Army and Marines). Japan suffered 107,000 military and approximately 100,000 civilian casualties.

Programs Supported by Post 209

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| -Service to Veterans | -Pikes Peak Veterans Council |
| -Veterans Day Parade | -Scouting |
| -Boy's State | -Jr. ROTC |
| -Crawford House for Homeless Veterans | -Jr. Shooting Program |
| - Stand-Down for Homeless Veterans | -Oratorical Contest |

Coming Events

- 11 Aug---Exec. Comm/Bord.Trustees mtg.
- 13 Aug---Breakfast/membership mtg.
- 19-25 Aug---National Convention, Honolulu
- 31 Aug---Pikes Peak Veterans Council mtg. (PPVC)

2004-2005 Ad Hoc Committees

- Constitution and Bylaws – Neal Thomas, 719-392-1510
- Property Inventory
 - Office – Ann Foster, 719-599-8624
 - Storage Unit – Larry Johnson, 719-622-0344
- Auxiliary Liaison – Bill Marshall, 719-495-0088

Sons of the American Legion – Larry Johnson, 719-622-0344

2005-2006 Board of Trustees

Chairman – Neal Thomas
 Secretary – Alton Cyriaque
 Finance Officer – Norm Moyer
 Commander – Bill Marshall
 Member (3yr) – Alton Cyriaque
 Member (3yr) – Chuck Zeitvogel
 Member (2yr) – Ann Foster
 Member (1yr) – Neal Thomas
 Member (1yr) – Larry Johnson

2005-2006 Meetings

Post Executive Committee meets 1st
 Thursday of the month at 4291 Austin
 Bluffs Pkwy., Ste. 104, at 6:30 p.m.

Board of Trustees meets 1st Thursday of the
 month at 4291 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., Ste.
 104 immediately following Post Executive
 Committee Meeting.

2005-2006 Post 209 Officers/Executive Committee	
Commander	Bill Marshall
Sr. Vice Commander	W. W. Bandler
Jr. Vice Commander	Open
Adjutant	Ann Foster
Finance Officer	Norm Moyer
Historian	Curtis Wash
Sergeant-at-Arms	Robert Rydell
Chaplain	Mario Taracena
Judge Advocate	Larry Johnson
Service Officer	Tom Morant
Post Ex. Committeeman	Neal Thomas
Past Commander	Chuck Zeitvogel
2004-2005 Auxiliary Unit	
President	Dot Dassero
Secretary/Treasurer	Barbara Johnson
Chaplain	Open
Sergeant-at-Arms	Open

Calendar

August 2005						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 EC Mtg. 6:30 PM	12	13 Membership Mtg. Breakfast, 9 AM Meeting 10 AM
14	15	16	17	18	19 National Convention begins	20
21	22	23	24	25 Nat. Con. ends	26	
28	29	30	31 PPVC			

NAVY BALL, OCTOBER 14, 2005

2005 ACE 'HELPFUL HARDWARE' FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR YOUR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Specials for your members:

For a two month period of your choice, your Organization Supporters will be saving 10% on every purchase at our stores. (Excluding only vendor sponsored and Ace Best Buy promotions as well as Special Orders.)

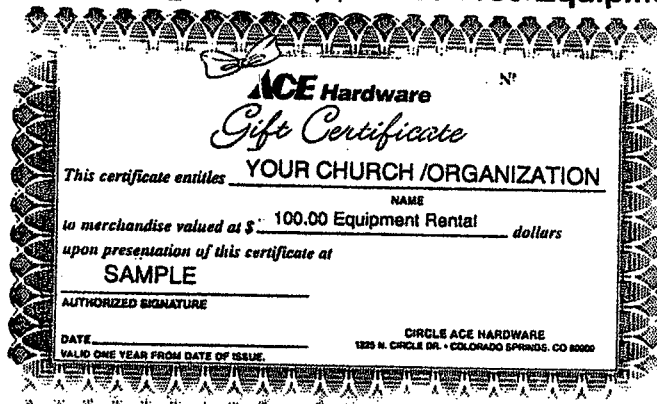
Financial Support for your Organization:

In addition, we will match their savings, Dollar For Dollar, with Monthly Financial Support checks sent directly to your Organization.

Use the money in any way you wish... There are absolutely no limits to the amount of money your organization could receive.

Example: 100 members each purchase \$175.00 saving \$17.50 each. Your support check for that month will be \$1,750.00!!!

As an added benefit to your organization, \$100.00 Free Equipment Rental Credits



Your organization may apply these credits at any time during your selected fundraising period toward the rental of any piece of equipment from our fine rental inventory.

To take advantage of this great opportunity, contact me personally at 231-3035, fax 638-3500 and email to mvanwyk@circleace.com. We will set up a meeting to review the program details and answer any questions you might have.

Thank you for your fine work in our community,

Michael Van Wyk
Colorado Springs ACE Hardware

August 13, 2005

The Honorable Ken Salazar
United States Senate
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Salazar:

I am writing to urge your support for S. 852, the Fairness in Asbestos Injury Resolution Act (the FAIR Act) so that our veterans may be compensated for years of contact with asbestos through military construction.

The trust fund provides the best fix for United States veterans exposed during military service. Today veterans are left out in the cold – because the federal government has “sovereign immunity,” veterans cannot recover from their former “employer” through the courts. Under the victims’ compensation fund, veterans with asbestos-related diseases would be compensated on a “no-fault” basis. And existing veterans’ benefits would be protected under the fund.

I am asking for you to support this vital legislation. Veterans simply cannot wait any longer. Without the passage of S. 852, more of our veterans will die before ever seeing compensation.

Thank you for your time,