

THE AMERICAN LEGION – CENTENNIAL POST 209
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December 2005 – NEWSLETTER

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Saturday December 17, 2005
Christmas Luncheon, Country Buffet, Citadel Crossing
1:00 PM- 3:00 PM

Officers' Comments

COMMANDER -- Bill Marshall

Reminder, there is no General Membership meeting this month.

On behalf of all the Officers of Post 209, we wish you and your family a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year. We look forward to serving you in 2006 and to continue supporting the programs that make The American Legion the strong organization it is. Please help us in our continued support to the troops and their families during these difficult times.

SR. VICE COMMANDER – W.W. Bandler

It's that time again: Post 209's Annual Christmas Party

When - December 17, 2005 (Saturday)

Where - The Country Buffet, 715 North Academy (Citadel Crossing)

Time - Between 1300 and 1500 hours

Price - \$7.29 per person for all you can eat

We will have door and table prizes. We have the special room reserved. Just tell the cashier you are with The American Legion. Seniors may get a reduced price. Hope to see you there. This is for the whole family.

Finance Officer - Norm Moyer

Our Adjutant, Ann Foster and I are volunteers at the Peterson Air Force Base Air & Space Museum, located at 150 East Ent Avenue (one block east of the NCO Club). The museum is a field extension to the Air Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH.

Over the last few years, the museum has completed a restoration of a World War II P-47, now permanently on display in the Old City Hanger with improved displays of NORAD, Air Defense Command and Space Command, including the BMEWS/DEW Line.

Current reconstruction of the Honor Court for the Congressional Medal Honor recipients from the US Air Force and Army Air Corps is in final stages with completion by December 16, 2005. More information about the museum and the 20+ aircraft and missile air park is available at the outstanding web site: www.petemuseum.org or contact Gail Whalen, Director, or Jeff Nash, Assistant Director, at 556-8314.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED for Docent (Tour Guides) or Restoration (with experience in aircraft maintenance, airframe, aircraft engines, aircrew maintenance, etc.) PLAN A VISIT TO THE PETERSON AIR & SPACE MUSEUM!

ADJUTANT – Ann Foster

Membership

Thanks to another mailing of renewal notices we are now at 223 for 2006. That puts us over 67% and five more would make 70%. Just 97 more would be 100%. Please check your cards and make sure you have not already paid for 2006, then go ahead and send in your dues now if you can; we can really get ahead if our members can renew early.

Cub Pack 24

The Pack made a good showing for the Veterans Day Parade and ably carried our Post banner. They really look forward to this every year and will be receiving a patch in January to acknowledge their participation. This is Children and Youth and Americanism at work. On 14 and 16 November, I attended training for Cub Scouting and am now duly certified. However, I would like to ask all of you who raised your hands as having participated in Scouting when Nels Hendricksen spoke to us about the Pikes Peak Council, etc., to seriously think about helping me with this Pack. We need mentors for the parents and the boys. If you would let me know if you are willing to help in any way, I would appreciate it very much.

Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA)

Recently Neal Thomas and I have had the opportunity to participate in an important program of The American Legion called Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA). This is a program designed to help families of veterans that may need a hand with debts in order to go forward and not continually fall further and further behind. While there are some specific guidelines, and paperwork and research to do, the results can be well worth the effort. I have worked with two families and Neal worked with one. All three are doing much better now. The money comes from National after the Post and the Department have decided on the appropriate action, so it definitely fits our mission of veterans helping veterans and their families.

CHAPLAIN – Mario Teracena

Tis the season...

The Holiday season is here and is in the air. T.V. commercials, newspapers and magazines are now coming loaded with Holiday colored advertisements. Shoppers are bombarded and enticed to buy the latest in fashions, gadgets, and rich yummy food.

Everybody's antennas seem to be tuned in to the occasion: football, music, parties, eating, and drinking. With so much distraction from the lights and noise it seems the old traditions of Christmas are disappearing fast. Some "enlightened people" have even suggested changing the name for something more secular by saying Happy Holidays: "We don't want to offend anyone by saying Merry Christmas." While we become more materialistic, sophisticated, or politically correct, aren't we forgetting the real meaning of Christmas?

It's about honoring and celebrating the birth of baby Jesus. It means warm hearts, helping others, appreciating our blessings, and being thankful for what we have. It is a holiday where the true meaning should not be forgotten, and we should follow the admonition of the Apostle Paul: "In everything give thanks..." (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Merry Christmas to you and your families.

Past Post Commander-Chuck Zeitvogel

Lower Food Costs

A family or individual can lower monthly food costs by participating in the SHARE program. The program covers the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Nebraska, Wyoming and South Dakota. Normally people can save about 50% on food through the SHARE Program from retail costs in a local market. Also, "...for every dollar you spend with SHARE you automatically help put food on the table for families and children in need right in your own community, plus help support local community programs."

Monthly regular, junior, vegetable and individual special items or packs are normally offered. Participants pre-order and pay, then pick up their orders at a host site a few weeks later. They can also go to the SHARE Denver warehouse most days of the week and purchase what they need. SHARE buys in large quantities, and then through a volunteer force of thousands, distributes the food items locally to participants. The SHARE program is available and open to anyone regardless of social or economic status.

Interested in lowering your food costs? Locate a local host site near where you live and contact that site representative for order and pickup dates. In Colorado, host sites and local representatives are listed by ZIP Code. Check the SHARE web site at www.sharecolorado.com for detailed information, or contact Chuck Zeitvogel, at 719-531-0546.

Participation

Showing up is 90% of success, it has been said. Showing up translates into "participation" to some degree family, church group, organizations or society that one is a part of. Participation can be both active and passive. Active, to me, includes attending meetings, being willing to serve on committees, and occasionally serving as a leader in some capacity. Passive, to me, equates to being a card carrier and not much more. I encourage members of our Post to be more active than they have been in the past. At least attend the normally scheduled monthly Saturday morning breakfasts and meetings now held at The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) Chapter 1, Auxiliary Room. The Post 209 leadership needs to hear from each member to better serve all members; attending these meetings encourages dialog, which in turn fosters a sense of camaraderie, support and togetherness which the American Legion is all about: **Veterans Assisting Veterans.**

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

- Dec 1----Executive Comm. Meeting
- Dec 7----Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- Dec 17----Post Christmas Party
- Dec 25----Christmas Day
- Dec 26----First Day of Hanukkah
- Dec 31----New Years Eve

2005-2006 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
2005-2006 Auxiliary Unit	
President	Dot Dassero
Secretary/Treasurer	Barbara Johnson
Chaplain	Open
Sergeant-at-Arms	Open

Calendar

December 2005						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 EC Mtg.	2	3
4	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Post Christmas Party 1-3 PM
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Christmas Day	26 First Day of Hanukkah	27	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve

HAPPY NEW YEAR