

The Centennial

VOLUME I EDITION 2

FEBRUARY 2020



AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209

3613 JEANNINE DR. COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80917
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.LEGION209.ORG

MEET YOUR 2019 - 2020 OFFICERS!!

2019-2020 American Legion Post 209 Officers

Commander: Lino Calica	Finance Officer: Mike Barger	Executive Committeeman: Marvin Weaver Jr.
Sr. Vice Commander: Joseph Schmidt	Chaplain: Stan Hamamoto	Judge Advocate: Marvin Weaver Sr.
Jr. Vice Commander: Desiree Guerra	Historian: Mike Wescott	Service Officer: Art Carter
Adjutant: Jerry Hopper	Sgt At Arms: Sarah Tobin	Club Manager: Art Kimbrel

2019-2020 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers

President: Cathy Barger	Secretary: Pat Weaver	Chaplain: Madelyne "Hooty" Newborn
Vice President: Donna Testorff	Treasurer: Kellie Hayes	Historian: Royce Hopper
	Sgt At Arms: Kris Floyd	

2019-2020 Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209 Officers

Commander: Eric Testorff	Adjutant: Ken Taylor	Sgt At Arms: Bob Ingram
Sr. Vice Commander: Michael Wescott	Chaplain: Steve Cox	Immediate Past Commander: Stan Krasinski
Jr. Vice Commander: Richard Pecoraro	Historian: Evan Schwartzbart	

2019-2020 American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers

President: Steve Hayes	Treasurer: Kellie Hayes	Communications: Wade Newborn
Vice President: Tim McDowell	Road Captain: John Hanchek	Historian: Andrew Pearson
Secretary: Cathy Barger	Sgt At Arms: Mark Griffin	Logistics: Mike Sylvester
	Pastor: John Coppedge	

2019-2020 Amateur Radio Club Officers

President: Jon Davis K0YOV	Vice President: George Johnson KE0ALQ
Secretary: Harvey LeCato W1JU	Treasurer: Henry Russell KCONAJ
Director: Jim Harris WOEM	



FROM THE DESK & MIND OF THE COMMANDER

Our 2020 New Year membership drive is currently at 918, as of January 12th. Our Department target goal is 1080 members. We are at 85% of our goal, and are 162 members shy to reach our target. These numbers reflect new members and Legionnaires that have renewed their membership. Each member from the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, Legion Riders and The American Legion Amateur Radio Club is valuable to our Post. Let us all work together and help the other programs reach their goal. I challenge each member to sign up one new member to the Post. Remember the 3R's: Recruit New members - Retain Existing Members - Rebuild for the Future.

PPC Mike Barger introduced the Sponsor a Veteran Program. This program gives us the opportunity to support and give back to our veterans from WWII, Korea and Vietnam wars by renewing their membership. It has been very successful for the last 3 years. I will be passing the hat around to assist these well-deserved veterans, in our general membership meeting in February. Last year, with your donations we were able to renew 44 veterans' memberships. If you are interested in sponsoring a veteran, feel free to contact me or Jerry Hopper. The key to growth and success of our Post is to lead by example and to serve the needs of our Veterans and their families.

In every organization, one of the hurdles of achieving a successful event is **NOT** having enough participation. As Commander, I have seen the participation declining among the officers and members at our Post events, (i.e. Snowball Fundraiser, Veterans Day Parade, Thanksgiving and Christmas Parties, and various fundraiser dinners). The members who manage these events, work hard scheduling, preparing meals, setup, serving and cleanup to make the event successful. Everyone keeps saying that we are all family, and family, helps each other, right? I have been a member of the Post for 8 years. I have observed the Friday night dinners, general membership meeting breakfasts, events and have watched the Auxiliary Ladies doing most of the work. A very small handful of Legionnaires prepare and serve the food, setup, cleanup, sweep, and mop the rooms. I firmly believe as leaders/members of the Post we need to **try** and give a helping hand, at all the events.

Just a reminder, if you would like to participate at the Friday night dinners at the Post, you will need to **RSVP**, so the cooks will know the count of plates he/she needs to prepare. To **RSVP** please login into the Post website: **LEGION209.ORG**

It is that time of the year, elections are coming up in April. All positions, to include Commander are up for nomination. Marvin Weaver Jr. will chair the nominating

committee. If you are interested in running for a position or multiple positions, please contact Marvin Weaver Jr. at **(719) 244-3535** or his email: weaverjrm@comcast.net

I have included the Roles and Responsibilities of Post Officers published in March 2016.

Roles and responsibilities of Post Officers

- **Commander:**
You are entrusted with the supervision of the duties of all other Officers of the Post. You are the presiding Officer at all meetings and you must familiarize yourself with the policies and traditions of your Post and The American Legion.
- **Adjutant:**
You are the Secretary. Post activities will revolve around you. The Adjutant is the Post personnel officer; maintains membership records, minutes of meetings, checks up and assists with the work of the other Officers and Committees. You publish official orders; announcements and instructions.
- **Senior Vice Commander:**
Your primary concern is membership. No Post can survive without good membership. You should also be familiar with ceremonial protocols for regular meetings. A Vice Commander must be ready to fill in for the Commander upon a moment's notice.
- **Junior Vice Commander:**
You must be ready to promote your Post. The Commander will depend on you to provide programs that spice up the meetings and attract attendance. You should contact other Veteran and civic organizations so that each patriotic holiday and observance receives the attention it deserves. You are concerned with the pageantry of the Legion. You should also be concerned with the welfare of all fellow Veterans as well as with Veteran's affairs and rehabilitation committees.
- **Finance Officer:**
You will serve as chair of the Finance Committee and will be in charge of all receiving and disbursing of Post funds. You will work closely with the Post Adjutant in all matters relating to the finances of your Post.
- **Service Officer:**
You should be a dedicated person and should have a deep interest in fellow Veterans, the Post and the community. You are responsible for bringing to the attention of all Veterans and their dependents the rights and benefits granted to them by law. You must know how to utilize the expert services available through Legion channels as well as through local agencies. You should be ready to visit dependents upon a death of a service member. You may be called upon to serve as chair of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee as well as working with children and youth committees or making hospital visitations. Appointed by the Commander-elect.
- **Chaplain:**
You must be a person capable of moral and intellectual leadership. You work closely with all other Officers of the Post. You should attend all meetings of the Post and Executive Committee. You should be ready to officiate when requested, at funerals of members. The Chaplain must also be ready to provide service to bereaved families of Post members.

- **Sergeant-at-Arms:**

You should know how to arrange the meeting hall, assist the Post Commander and Adjutant. You are the custodian of the Colors and in charge of Colors details during the presentation and retirement ceremonies. You should know how to display flags and their proper presentation. You are also responsible for maintaining order at meetings.

- **Historian:**

You have the responsibility of preserving and compiling the records/photos (specifically through our Scrapbook and website) of our Post. You should try to attend Department Conventions and keep in touch with other Post Historians. [You are only encouraged to attend, not required.]

- **Post Executive Committeeman:**

You are a voting member of the Post Executive Committee, which is entrusted with the government and management of the Post. You shall be responsible to represent the interests of the general membership to the Executive Committee.

- **Judge Advocate:**

You will supply professional advice in the conducting of the Post business or to procure proper counsel. You are the interpreter of the Constitution and By-Laws of our Post. You may be asked to assist in auditing Post financial accounts. Appointed by the Commander-elect.

Lino Calica
Post Commander

S.A.L.T. – Serving and Learning Together



FROM THE SR. VICE COMMANDER

I am happy to announce that our post won (again) the all-time high membership award at the Department Mid-Year Convention. We continue year after year to grow as a post. something a lot of posts in our state and even across the country don't have the privilege of saving. That doesn't mean that we slow the momentum. in fact we must keep up the hard work and dedication to our great organization. What we do as the American Legion is so much more than membership. it is building a community of veterans and their families supporting one another through the many programs of our organization. Continue to share with your friends and family who we are and what we believe. and I guarantee that they too will want to join our ever expanding family. Finally. as your Sr. Vice Commander. I am always available to discuss any ideas or concerns you may have please reach out to me any time.

Joseph A. Schmidt
Post Sr. Vice Commander



TALARC Newsletter Input for February

After a substantial hiatus, the “board” moved to reinvigorate the planned membership activities. We will host at least one interesting event EACH MONTH. In future months we will participate in Special Event military-related activities, and contests, if available. **Watch your email inbox for upcoming information!**

By the way --- what kind of events would **you** like to see take place? If you are reading this – you must have at least some interest in our club. What will spark your interest to come out and do something fun? **Your input will be greatly appreciated.**



Valentine's Day!

**Tell That Special
Someone How Much
They Mean to You, Today
and Every day!**



FROM THE DESK OF THE POST FINANCE OFFICER

The Post as a whole did pretty good last year. We end 2019 in the black for the month of December \$435. From July to December we were a total in the black for \$6192.46. The big thing that helped us this year was the Luau we had in March to celebrate the 100 year birthday of the American Legion. Until we got our finances in place, the Auxiliary was our keeper of the funds while we went through the issue with the last finance officer, after he pilfered funds from us all the way back to 2016. Give yourself a pat on the back for helping us get over this issue and back on track. Now, with 2020 upon us, we need to begin looking at ways for us to continue to bring in funds, so we can continue to stay solvent and do what we do, helping our veterans in the community when the time comes when they need some assistance.

As for our utilities, I believe we have bottomed out on our savings when it comes to the electric side of the house. Our average for the last few months has bottomed out at around \$350. That's much better that where we were, burning anywhere from \$500 to \$700 dollars a month just on electric. I believe in May or June, Colorado Springs Utilities will look at our overall usage for the last year, and then adjust us, which should be in the positive for us, meaning our utility bill should go down. I will keep you all posted on the outcome of that when it becomes available.

Mike Barger
Post Finance Officer



FROM THE DESK OF THE POST ADJUTANT

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. At the November General Meeting. I asked everyone to submit any suggestions. good or bad. they felt would be good for the Post or The American Legion. At the January General Meeting. I received a few. The most disturbing thing was that I have been failing the members who do not have computers. They have not been receiving their copies of the Newsletters. My apologies. I am working to remedy that. I am reviewing records to establish a mailing list for snail-mail. Please keep the suggestions coming.

It's What We Do!!

Jerry Hopper
Post Adjutant



Letters to the Editor:

Hi all, my name is Michael Wescott (USCG VET.), your new Post 209 Honor Guard Captain. By now most of you have heard that Eric Testorff has stepped down last month as the Honor Guard Captain. I have taken over as the new Post 209 Honor Guard Captain. Eric has done an outstanding job as the Captain. He will stay on with the Honor Guard helping out when he is able to and keeping the web page up to date.

The first event that I did as Post 209 honor guard captain was at the Mid-Year Conference posting of colors. It went really great! The Honor Guard members did an outstanding job posting the colors for this event. Our next event is on February 7th. [We will be] posting colors for the Army Dining out 208th Digital Liaison Detachment, at Hotel Elegante. I plan on keeping up the same standards that Eric put in place.

Proud possessors of...



a priceless heritage...

FROM THE DESK OF THE SAL COMMANDER

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) has announced the 2020 recipients of grants totaling \$811,282. Meanwhile, here in Colorado, the annual Child Welfare Foundation Banquet will be held on April 4th, and will be hosted by none other than our very own Sons of the American Legion Squadron 209!



As SAL 209 Commander, I am proud at the selection of our Squadron to host the CWF. There is a lot of work to be done to make this a success. One of the events of the evening will be a silent auction, and to that end, I am putting out the call to all Post 209 Family and friends: We are looking for silent auction items! Check your garage, your attic... your pocketbook.... We will gladly take donations of auction-able items to help Colorado Squadrons hit our goal of \$20,000 raised for the CWF. Or, if you prefer, we will be more than happy to receive **any** cash donation, regardless of size.

In case you are wondering about what the Child Welfare Foundation does for our nation's children, here is a small sampling of this year's grant recipients:

- **Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation** was awarded \$30,000 for their project, Online Resources for Child Liver Transplant Patients and their Families.
- **CureSearch for Children's Cancer** was awarded \$33,000 for their project, "Supporting American Families Facing a Pediatric Cancer Diagnosis."
- **Lifeline Pilots** was awarded \$25,000 for their project, "No Cost Air Transportation for Medically Fragile Kids."
- **National Braille Press** was awarded \$19,725 for their project, "ReadBooks!" This grant will fund resource books for parents with visually impaired children to introduce their children to Braille and help encourage parents to learn Braille to help their children.
- **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children** was awarded \$12,839 for their project, "Reconnecting with Your Child: Building Relationships after Suspected Sexual Exploitation."

And the list goes on.

Please keep Squadron 209 in mind as we work this winter toward helping the CWF meet its goal. The Sons of the American Legion is by far the biggest fundraiser for these grants, and we hope you will help us help our nation's children. To donate, please contact **Eric Testorff** at: etestorff@legion209.org or call **719-510-4177**.



Eric Testorff

SAL Squadron Commander

GROUNDHOG DAY EXPLAINED



WEATHER
FORECASTING
RODENT

SHADOW

NO SHADOW!



6 MORE WEEKS OF WINTER

SPRING IS ON THE WAY!

HAPPY GROUNDHOG DAY!



In the Spirit of Service and Not Self...

FROM THE DESK OF THE UNIT PRESIDENT

Welcome our newest member Penny, who transferred to us from Florida.

Just a quick note on membership. Our Unit is doing well, but we still need more members to renew and at least get one new member to reach our 2020 goal. If you haven't already renewed for 2020, please send in your check for \$35.

On February 8, 2020, Memorial Gardens Cemetery has scheduled the clean-up for the wreaths placed during the Holidays. This begins at 10 a.m.

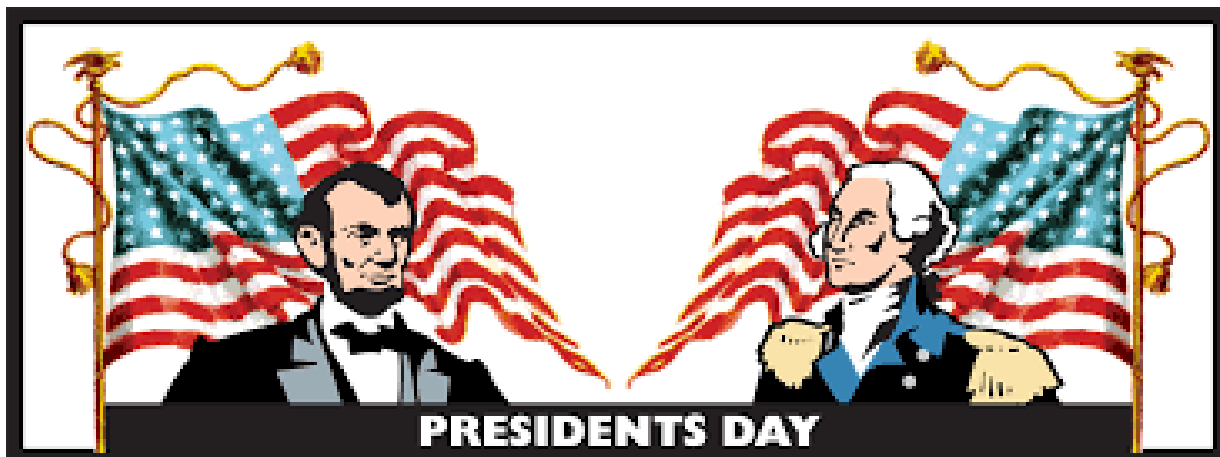
We'll be having our regular monthly meeting February 8th. Please join us for a great breakfast and stay for the meeting at 10 a.m.

Election of new officers will be here before you know it. If you would like to run for a position please let us know. The offices and a short explanation of the positions are: **President**- to conduct meetings of the Unit and Unit Executive committee; **Vice-President**- assist the President and in the absence of the President, perform her duties; **Secretary**- record all proceedings and maintain those recordings; **Treasurer** - receive and disperse all money belonging to the Unit and account for them; **Chaplain**- offer opening and closing prayers at the meetings; **Historian**- compile historical records of the Unit and send reports to Department; and **Sergeant-at-Arms**— preserve order at the meetings.

We would like to wish the following ladies a HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Diane Apperson, Shirley Chapman, Karen Cross, Pat Johnson, Desiree Noechel, Donna Ribisi, Tesia Barger and Dawn Schubert. Make sure to wish these ladies Happy Birthday when you see them.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly!

Cathy Barger
Unit President



BRINGING A LITTLE SOUTH TO THE WEST



I've recently been thinking about the technological advancements and changes that have occurred during my life. I know I've mentioned some of them in previous articles, but I think it's time to highlight in detail the changes I've been able to witness. Over the next few periodicals, I'll pick one to talk about.

I'll start off with the Television. Growing up we had a black and white model made by Muntz. I don't know why I remember that name, but I

do. They've probably been out of business 50+ years. The company was the first to market a TV for less than \$100. I think that's the only reason we had one. Mom and Dad kept that TV until I left to go into the Army. After I left they bought their first color TV. I guess they figured they could afford it because they didn't have to feed me any longer.

The TV had a remote control, but it quit working when we went to bed at 9:00. After that, Dad or Mom would have to get off the couch and change the channel themselves. We could only get the 3 major networks; ABC, NBC, and CBS, and if we had the antenna just right we could also occasionally get PBS. But we didn't care much for it because the only thing they aired was educational shows.

Speaking of our antenna, for many years we had one mounted on a steel pole that rose from the ground to about 6 feet over the top of the house. It was anchored with straps bolted to the side of the house. If the wind blew strong, or sometimes just to get a better signal, we'd form a line outside to "tweak" in a better signal. One of us kids would turn the antenna pole to re-orient the antenna, while another one would be inside the house and yell when the picture got clearer. The person watching the TV would guide the person on the pole and the message would be relayed across my siblings stationed between the antenna pole and the front door. I guess if you're "working the pole" these days, it means something entirely different.

I was ecstatic when we finally got "Rabbit Ears" for the TV. It made life so much better. I also learned that using aluminum foil seemed to make the images a little sharper, and occasionally having my little sister stand next to the rabbit ears with a hand on one of the antennae worked even better. She would get tired too quickly though to make that work for an extended period.

Speaking of the three networks, if there was more than one show on at the same time on different channels, you just had to pick one. There was no way to record a show being televised. If you missed it, you'd just have to wait for the re-runs during the summer. That took some planning.

We didn't have TV Guide to let us know what was being televised and when. The schedule was published in *The Commercial Appeal* and *The Press Scimitar* newspapers. The Commercial Appeal was the morning edition and The Press was our afternoon paper. Dad

got both for many years. The same schedule was posted in both so it didn't matter which you got. The schedule would go out a couple of days so you could plan your evenings better.

I can also recall seeing the commercial for the first time announcing a new technological advancement, "Pay TV." There wasn't much detail given, but it would show up as a commercial from time to time. I envisioned a box sitting on top of the TV with a coin slot at the top. I imagined having to put a quarter in the slot to get the signal passed down.

















Dad chose what we watched each night. It was entirely up to him to pick the show. Fortunately, he liked Westerns during the week and Football on weekends. So did I. And if there was a Friday night fight (heavy weight boxing), he would watch that as well. Another favorite of his on Saturday was Wrestling. He knew even back then it was mostly fake, but he watched for the entertainment value. Jackie's Mom was also a big Wrestling fan. I remember one Saturday actually attending the match. Tojo Yamamoto was wrestling that day. He was a local favorite. He was Dad's favorite bad guy for years, then he switched over to being a good guy.

Thinking back, TV in the 50's and 60's was pretty barbaric compared to today. We didn't have 200 plus stations from which to choose. But to be perfectly honest, there was more good TV on before cable and satellite than there is now. There are many days I can't find anything on the 200 channels worth losing 1 hour of my life to watch. Unless I tune in to an old episode of Gunsmoke or Maverick. Ain't it funny how with 200 channels, many of us still look for the re-runs? 😊

Jay Bowen
Past Post Commander



February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
						1	
	Hamdogger Night Cancelled Because Post Meeting is the Next Morning Steak Night is Cancelled Due to Insufficient Help Available!						
2 Groundhog Day	3 BSA Troop 77 Mtg 6:00pm Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm  	4	5	6 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	7	8 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am  	
9	10 BSA Troop 77 Mtg 6:00pm Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm  	11	12 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	13 Young Guns 6:30pm 	14 Valentine's Day ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! \$10.00 Meal 	15	
16	17 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm  ALR Exec. Board 6:00pm 	18	19 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	20 Young Guns 6:30pm 	21	22 Healing Warriors 9:00am - 1:00pm	
23	24 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	25 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm  	26 Ash Wednesday Marksmanship 6:30pm 	27 Young Guns 6:30pm 	28 \$10.00 Meal Hawaiian Dinner!-6:00pm RSVP Required!   	29	

March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 BSA Troop 77 Mtg 6:00pm Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm  	3	4 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	5 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm  Young Guns 6:30pm 	6 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	7
8 Day light Saving Begins	9 BSA Troop 77 Mtg 6:00pm Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm  	10	11 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	12 Young Guns 6:30pm 	13 \$10.00 Meal Aux. Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	14 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am  
15	16 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm  ALR Exec. Board 6:00pm 	17 Saint Patrick's Day	18 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	19 Start of Spring Young Guns 6:30pm 	20 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!    	21
22	23 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	24 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm  	25 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	26 Young Guns 6:30pm 	27 \$10.50 Meal Chef's Choice! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!    	28 Earth Hour Healing Warriors 9:00am - 1:00pm Biker Ball - DAV #26 6:00pm-10:00pm
29	30 BSA Troop 77 Mtg 6:00pm Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm  	31	Notes:			