

THE AMERICAN LEGION – CENTENNIAL POST 209
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February 2006 – NEWSLETTER

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2006

TREA*, Breakfast 9 AM, Membership Meeting 10 AM

**Guest Speaker: Edward Vela, Community Based
Outpatient Clinic (CBOC)**

Officers' Comments

COMMANDER – Bill Marshall

Guest Speaker

Our speaker, Edward Vela, is the Patient Representative for the Colorado Springs Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC). He will provide information on CBOC's in general and our Clinic in particular. We look forward to an excellent presentation and the opportunity for you to ask questions and get some straight answers.

Beware

Hotel Key Cards - Good Information to know.

You know how, when you check out of a hotel that uses the credit-card-type room key, the clerk often will ask if you have your key(s) to turn in ... or there is a box or slot on the Reception counter in which to put them? It's good for the hotel because they save money by re-using those cards. But, it's not good for you, as revealed below. From the California Bureau of Investigation:

"Southern California law enforcement professionals assigned to detect new threats to personal security issue's, recently discovered what type of information is embedded in the credit card type hotel room keys used throughout the industry. Although room keys differ from hotel to hotel, a key obtained from a well-known hotel chain that was being used for a regional Identity Theft Presentation was found to contain the following information:

- a. Customers (your) name
- b. Customers partial home address
- c. Hotel room number

- d. Check in date and check out date
- e. Customer's (your) credit card number and expiration date!

When you turn them in to the front desk your personal information is there for any employee to access by simply scanning the card in the hotel scanner. An employee can take a hand full of cards home and using a scanning device, access the information onto a laptop computer and go shopping at your expense.

Simply put, hotels do not erase the information on these cards until an employee re-issues the card to the next hotel guest. At that time, the new guest's information is electronically "overwritten" on the card and the previous guest's information is erased in the overwriting process. But until the card is rewritten for the next guest, it usually is kept in a drawer at the front desk with YOUR INFORMATION ON IT!!!!

The bottom line is: Keep the cards, take them home with you, or destroy them. NEVER leave them behind in the room or room wastebasket, and NEVER turn them in to the front desk when you check out of a room. They will not charge you for the card (it's illegal) and you'll be sure you are not leaving a lot of valuable personal information on it that could be easily lifted off with any simple scanning device card reader. For the same reason, if you arrive at the airport and discover you still have the card key in your pocket, do not toss it in an airport trash basket. Take it home and destroy it by cutting it up, especially through the electronic information strip!

Information courtesy of:
Pasadena Police Department

Officers For 2006-2007

Al Cryiaque, Past Post Commander, is Chairman of the Nominating Committee for Post Officers for 06-07. If you wish to run for an office or nominate someone, please contact Al at 599-8624. Elections will be held at the April General Membership meeting, with installation at the May meeting.

SR. VICE COMMANDER – W.W. Bandler

Congratulations to the following Post 209 Legionnaires on their being presented with the Non Commissioned Officers Association's Medallion and Legacy awarded to veterans of World War II.

Helen Rydell	Guinard Rydell, husband of Helen
Gideon Diamon	Rydell and father of Robert Rydell
Gordon Kellogg	was awarded the Medallion and
Millicent Young	Legacy posthumously

THINK SUMMER - THINK PICNIC

Post 209 is proud to announce that we have reserved the pavilion at Palmer Park (Maizeland and Academy) for our annual picnic on July 8, between the hours of 1100 until 1600. Please plan to attend. Mark your calendars. Bring your chairs, hot dogs, hamburgers, a dish or desert to share, etc. Oh, don't forget to bring your significant other.

ADJUTANT – Ann Foster

Membership

Thanks to some renewals and aggressive recruiting by our Commander we now have 268 members. We just need eight more for 85%. A mere 58 more would make us 100%. We sure would like to be the next 100% District in Department. Since this is very attainable, I encourage you to ask your neighbor, your coworker, or anyone else you know that is a veteran to join the largest veterans organization in the country. Veterans helping veterans and their families is our main mission and your dues go a long way towards the accomplishment of that mission. I can send you a full list of personal benefits, but the knowledge that your money is of immense importance to those veterans who need our help should be able to fill you with pride.

Cub Pack 24

The Pinewood Derby for this year is now behind us, but what an exciting evening for the boys. Curtis Wash, our Historian, and Esther Redington, Auxiliary member, were able to help with various aspects of the judging. They agreed, a good time was had by all, and the creativity of the boys was amazing! The Blue and Gold Dinner will be 15 February and if you would like to help celebrate at this annual Cub Scout event, please call the Post, 599-8624 to let us know. This is a potluck event and we have to know how many to prepare for.

Junior Shooting

Major Davis reported the Rifle Team is alive and well. The Navy JROTC unit is also busy preparing for their upcoming Military Ball.

Mid-Year Conference Reflections

What an exciting time we had honoring our Iraqi veterans, hearing an excellent presentation by Col Gary S Patton of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team 2nd Infantry Division, and especially honoring Sgt Allen Dale June, one of the two remaining Code Talkers from the original group of 29. In talking with his wife, Virginia, I learned there were five subsequent groups of Navajo Code Talkers, but like most of our WWII veterans they will not be with us much longer. Thus, the opportunity to thank individuals such as Sgt June becomes an honor for us as well as for them. We were also treated to a wonderful musical treat by five active duty soldiers called Harmony in Motion, two men and three women who serve their country everyday. They sang in the morning and again at dinner. A hat was passed at dinner and \$305.00 was collected for them to use as they saw fit. Usually they put money such as this back into anything that will support their fellow troops. This time they elected to give this money to Sgt June and his wife. Needless to say there was shock followed by joy by all concerned. Sgt June does not receive any pension, so this was a wonderful gesture by our soldiers. Thanks to donations by many Legionnaires all of our visitors are now members of The American Legion. Our Commander takes the prize by recruiting the speaker and his second in command. Gen Mixon, the original morning speaker, was called to New Mexico for a special presentation to a family. LaToya Lucas, our original banquet speaker, was called to Amarillo due to the worsening illness of her grandfather. Please keep them in your prayers. In her place a couple who have a 501c(3) nonprofit organization

called Hearts Across The Miles, told us how they have been able to send many needed items to our military deployed overseas. The Friday night EXPO on Legion programs was very well received. This was an excellent way for many to ask questions about programs they were not familiar with and to share information with each other about programs that were of mutual interest. I think it is fair to say this year's Conference was very informative and very rewarding. Conventions can be this way, also, so plan ahead and you may learn much and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow veterans.

CHAPLAIN – Mario Teracena

PRESIDENT’S DAY

On the third day of February, we celebrate “President’s Day” to honor the memory of all the who have served as president of the United States

In 1885 President Chester Alan Arthur established a federal holiday nation. In 1968 congress passed the Uniform Holiday Act to create weekend commemorating the anniversary of George Washington’s birthday (February 22, 1731), the first president of the United States and his contributions to the holidays. Under this arrangement, Washington’s Birthday was moved to the third Monday in February. Since the early 50’s, there have been trends to combine both Lincoln’s and Washington’s birthdays. In 1971, President Nixon by executive order, declared the third Monday of February as a national holiday honoring all presidents.

We celebrate President Washington not as a Federal holiday, on the 22nd of February. We honor the man who commanded the continental Army and led the Colonies to victory in the War of Independence. He has been revered as the “Father of the Country”

The birthday of Abraham Lincoln (February 12, 1809) has never been designated as a Federal Holiday. His anniversary is celebrated to commemorate the 16th president. He was a man who took drastic actions to keep the union intact. President Lincoln knew that the union had to be preserved and he paid for it with his life.

General Dwight Eisenhower, the 34th President is revered by all Veterans as the nation’s most popular hero of WWII.

Happy President’s and Valentine’s Day!

Past Commander-Chuck Zeitvogel

Post 209 Newsletter

The Post 209 Newsletter is published and distributed monthly primarily for the benefit of Legionnaires and Auxiliary members of Post 209. Articles and comments from you, our readership, are welcome. Feel free to send your comments and articles to Post Commander Bill

Marshall for his review. Due to time and space constraints the earlier articles and comments are submitted for publication the better.

TAX TIME

Once again it's Tax Time! And time that many of us may struggle to understand the many changes in the tax code and rules that we must comply with to file accurate tax returns. To file accurate tax returns the first order of business is to have accurate financial records concerning income and expenses throughout the tax year. Organize these records before seeking professional or volunteer tax assistance as it will save time, frustration and expense. There are several changes in both the federal and state income tax code for tax year 2005, to many to address in this brief article. However, by taking a little bit of time to read the instructions that come with tax forms most taxpayers should be able to figure out how to file their tax return on their own.

Having said that, should a person feel overwhelmed free help is available. Check the phone numbers and information that follows for that help.

Electronic filing or e-filing is recommend by the federal and state revenue services as it is usually more accurate and provides for faster refunds for most tax payers. Commercial and free computer tax preparations programs are available for individual taxpayers and through most of them one can electronic file their tax return. Doing tax returns by hand is often laborious and frustrating. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) allows for free filing of federal returns through their web site www.irs.gov

Telephone numbers are for use by taxpayers:

IRS Tax-Help	1-800-829-1040
IRS Refund Hotline	1-800-829-1954
Where's My Refund Website	www.irs.gov
IRS Forms and Publications	1-800-829-3676
IRS Taxpayer Advocate	1-800-777-4778
IRS Tax-Help for Deaf (TDD)	1-800-829-4059
Social security Administration	1-800-772-1213

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), a FREE tax preparation service for those with simple tax returns is available through the Pike Peak Library District. Their website is <http://ppld.org> or you may call their telephone information line, 531-6333, ext.1040, which will e updated with information on forms, library resources, and volunteer income tax assistance sites.

Taxpayer Assistance for the State of Colorado is available through Colorado's website www.taxcolorado.com and the local Colorado Revenue office is located at 4420 Austin Bluffs Parkway, Colorado Springs, CO 80918 or call 719-594-8706.

Keep in mind that regardless of who prepares a tax return, be it a professional service, volunteer service or the taxpayer does the tax return themselves, the tax payer, when they sign the tax return is responsible for it's accuracy. Therefore, when using a professional service or volunteer service take the time to understand all the details on the tax return.

Abuse/Domestic Violence

Unfortunately, abuse/domestic violence is a reality in many families and relationships here in the United States regardless of their economic, ethnic, religious or social status in their community. For many of us it may come as a shock that senior citizens are also affected. The January/February 2006 AARP magazine issue has an article "A Nation's Shame – Domestic Violence and Older Americans". The article has a lead statement that tens of thousands of 50-plus victims of domestic violence suffer in silence. I recommend this article for your reading. Domestic violence could happen to anyone of us as we age and it is something to be aware of and guard against. No one need put up with it. Several national resources were given in the article where persons abused could contact for assistance. The names, phone numbers and websites of these organizations are offered for your consideration should you know of anyone in an abusive relationship they may profit from this information.

- National Domestic Violence Hotline, 1-800-799-7233: www.ndvh.org
- Domestic Abuse Help-line for Men, 1-888-7435754: www.domesticabusehelpline.org
- American Society of Adult Abuse Professionals and Survivors (ASAAPS), 414-540-6456: www.asaaps.org
- National Center on Elder Abuse (NECA), 2202-898-2586: www.elderabusecenter.org
- National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL), 608-255-0539; www.ncall.us
- National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), 303-839-1852; www.ncadv.org

Family doctors and local county health services are also resources available for assistance.

***TREA-is located on Emory Circle one block East of Murray off Galley RD.**

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

- Feb 2----Executive Comm. Meeting
- Feb 11----Membership Meeting get over yesterday
- Feb 12----Lincoln's Birthday
- Feb 14----Valentine's Day (Better Not Forget)
- Feb 15----Cub Scout Pack 24, Blue and Gold Dinner
- Feb 20----Presidents Day
- Feb 22----Washington's Birthday

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	
Sergeant-at-Arms	

Calendar

February 2006						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 E.C. Mtg.	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Post membership meeting
12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 Cub Scout-Blue and Gold Dinner	16	17	18
19	20 Presidents Day	21	22 Washington's Birthday	23	24	25
26	27	28				

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY