

# The Centennial



VOLUME 30 EDITION 1

January 2015

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## From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Gregory Smith

The 2014 year has come to an end and it has been a fabulous year in working for you, veterans and their families. As a Post, we have helped numerous families and shared many times together which have included holiday events, Post meetings, Post dinners, and Post rides. Each one of these events was a reflection of what the American Legion and Legion family stands for and has become the standard for community involvement. Thank you for being part of such a remarkable organization.

As we finish the holiday season, please continue to remember those veterans and their families that need support and a place to call home. Please reach out to all veterans this month and invite them to our Centennial Post, General Membership meeting, or another event that is on the schedule. It is a time to continue telling veterans about the American Legion and what we have been doing as an American Legion Post and family. Just in the last couple of months, we have shared with our Post families a potluck dinner and had a special guest, Santa Claus, who spoke with 28 children to find their wishes for Christmas, stepped up to show support for two families who lost a Legionnaire and an American Legion rider, participated in the recognition of veterans through the Colorado Springs Veterans Parade, showed support, within the community, by attending the new Veterans Memorial dedication, and our Centennial Post Friday dinners. We are vested in telling the community how we are available and ready to help.

As I reflect on the year, I have found many supports to help in my role as Commander. I want to thank you for that and ask that you continue to help me in my tenure. I have learned how we as an organization can help others in need and discuss ways to continue these processes in the future. Our representation and our abilities in the community have been reflective with local agencies, American Legion District leadership, and American Legion Department of Colorado. During this time, I have had to say goodbye to a friend and mentor. He is truly missed and I hope my future steps are representa-



ence is the upcoming Oratorical Contest. We, again as a post, have a candidate and look forward to seeing him succeed in the competition. Good Luck Jared Klimek.

Membership is a key to the American Legion's success as well as the Centennial Post. I talk about the American Legion daily and sometimes several times a day. Please make it known that you are part of the Legion family and share what we do with them. When I looked back at the 2014 calendar, there were over 75 events that the Centennial Post was involved in and I feel, in my heart, that there is an event in the coming year for all of these new veterans and their families. Take action now and we will make sure that our voices within the American Legion are heard which will help veterans' benefits, services, and accountability.

I have seen the Post and its programs step up and develop new ideas and events to help veterans, their families, and our communities. A few things have included Josh Dogs, rifle raffles, home defense raffle, food boxes for families in need, meals for veterans and families helped through Veterans Stand Down, selected to host Department Convention, rifle team for Post Color Guard, and American Legion membership tables at numerous events.

In the coming year, we will continue to have post dinners, flag retirement ceremonies, membership meetings, family and holiday events, and Legion rides. We will also have new events that could include Department Convention, swap meet, car/motorcycle shows, overnight rides, season parties, and end of season parties.

With each of the things mentioned above, it requires time, efforts, and volunteers. I have to ask again that each of you reading this newsletter to please get involved. It is our mission, our responsibility, and our duty. Our next General Membership meeting is on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Breakfast starts at 9:00 am. The Legionnaires and Women's Auxiliary meetings start at 10:00am. I want to personally invite all members, new members, potential members, and guests to the breakfast and meeting. It is a time to learn what we do and what we are planning in the coming year. Thank you all for reading this newsletter and being part of this organization. Get involved now...memberships, scheduled times, efforts, contributions, and volunteers.



## FROM THE ADJUTANT: Marvin Weaver, Jr.

Happy New Year! Hope you are ready for a busy year. We have a lot of events coming this year. I am sure that you already know but just to recap. Department Mid-Year and Department Convention will be held in Colorado Springs this year. Mid-Year will be January 22 – 25<sup>th</sup> and Convention will be in June. If you want to learn more about what The American Legion does, look at attending. With Convention, our Post is the host Post for the Convention. We could use your help to make this a success. Please see one of the Post Officers to find out what help is needed and what you can do to help make this Convention a success for the Department and your Post.

We are close to making our goal on membership for the year but still have some more to do. If you have not already renewed for 2015 please send in your check for \$35. We also need to recruit new members to help our Post to grow; for every new member you recruit you and the member you recruit are entered into a drawing for \$1,500. The drawing will be held at Department Convention in June.

Thank you for all that you do to help our Post be a model for other Posts in the Department; your efforts are noticed and appreciated!



## Centennial Squadron 209 SAL Commander Rick Kettering

On December 13, 2014 Centennial Squadron 209 of The American Legion presented 2 Josh Dogs to Children's Hospital at Memorial in Colorado Springs for children being treated there. We were informed that in just 10 minutes after the presentation that one of them was going to a little girl that recently had her appendix removed. We found out later that day that the dog went to a 7 year old that was having a real rough time dealing with what was going on with her stay. When she was presented with the dog she asked "Who loves me?" and she was crying with happiness.



Pictured from left to right is Rick Kettering, Kye Houser, Christopher Keith, Vicky Kelly of Children's Hospital, Evan Schwarzbart, Eric Testorff, and Ken Taylor. So far there have been donations for two more Josh Dogs. This is just the beginning of this project.



## Junior Vice Commander Eric Testorff

Members of the American Legion Centennial Post 209 Honor Guard represented Post 209 and District 7 at the 9th Annual "Common Sight, Common Vision" breakfast for the US Association of Blind Athletes. The event was held at the Hotel Elegante in Colorado Springs on 12 December, 2014.

Event Emcee Matt Simpson recognized the blind athletes in attendance, and gave some background for each. These really are world-class athletes, and represent the United States in the international Para-Olympic Games.

America the Beautiful was sung by Lt. Col. Katherine Strus, US Air Force, and recognition of volunteers was by Executive Director Mark Lucas.



Keynote speaker was US Air Force Staff Sergeant Mike Malarsie. Sgt. Malarsie lost his sight during combat in Afghanistan, and is now a Blind Athlete. The program was concluded by Dr. Michael Bina from the USABA Board of Directors.



## CHAPLAIN NEWS

January 2015

HAPPY NEW YEAR to each and every one of you and your family. May God bless you through the coming Year and May HE give you all the comfort, guidance and strength that you may need. Last year is in the past and we all must be able to look forward to the New Year and all that it will bring to each one of us and our families. Keep the faith in HIM who gave his life for all of our sins.

Dear Heavenly Father, we face the New Year with the promise of your presence. You call each one of us to ventures untried, paths untrodden, and perils unknown. Come guide us all and empower us all, so that we may live knowing that this year too shall with others, say "already." Give us each day some work to accompany our lives, some suffering to sanctify our spirits, some good to do in comforting others. Give to each one of us the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ, throughout the coming days and year. AMEN!!!

My last three words are: GO TO CHURCH!

Shalom, Pastor Stan



The American Legion Postal Competition for Young Guns Junior Shooting Sports, Post 209, was held on Wednesday, December 10th, 2014.

Targets for each competitor were supplied by American Legion National Headquarters. All targets are returned to National for the purpose of scoring verification.

Each shooter fired 20 rounds from each of the three positions; Prone, Standing and Kneeling, for a total of 60 rounds in competition. Targets have been returned to National Headquarters and results will be posted later. **GREAT JOB, SHOOTERS!!!**

We are recruiting for our next class which will begin on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The cost is \$25 for the entire class and air rifles and all needed equipment are provided. The class will be held on Wednesday evenings from 1830 to 2030 and will be limited to 12 students. The class is open to all youth ages 10 through 18. All participants and a parent, guardian or other responsible person will be required to attend all classes. Please contact Ken Taylor at 719-761-4047 or email [ad-jutantsal209@gmail.com](mailto:ad-jutantsal209@gmail.com) for more information or to register for the class.



**\$8 New to the American Legion Post 209!!!! Pasta Dinner**  
**American Legion Riders' Pasta dinner at 6:00 pm, the second Friday of the each month. \$8**



## **American Legion Post 209**

### **Judge Advocate**

### **Chuck Zeitvogel**

The New Year 2015 is here and we might ask ourselves, “What’s it going to bring?” I suppose the answers for each of us will depend a great deal on where we are in life. A young person, in the “spring” of life will have questions most likely much different than a person who is in the “winter” stages of their life. Planning for the future and having a positive mental attitude (PMA) is a good idea for getting things done. A plan and PMA will go a long way in helping most of folks conquer their personal challenges of life. Making plans in and for our personal lives is for many - easier said than done.

Three sayings heard years ago: “Why do today what you can do tomorrow?” and, “Tomorrow can take care of itself,” and “If you don’t know where you’re going, most likely you’ll end up somewhere else.” These sayings sometimes haunt me as they are counter-productive. By putting off what can be done tomorrow - nothing may ever get done; then too if making plans are put off, and put off, until - before you know it nothing is done. So here is a New Year’s resolution – “get to it”! Now, I admit it’s easier to preach what should be done than actually doing it, regardless, we are starting a New Year and a wise person (like you & me) will plan and follow through with what needs to be done and not put it off.

Examples of things to do include reviewing and updating your Will. Taking time to review and update one’s Will is recommended every five years or possibly more frequently when certain life changes occur, i.e., marriages, divorces, deaths and births as happens in a family. Another example, we veterans might consider taking advantage of the new VA Clinic in Colorado Springs - it was built and is managed for our use. For the first time visitor - a starting point is to take a copy of their last DD Form 214 to the clinic and register with the VA if not done before, and complete an application for disability or have a disability claim reviewed for possible upgrading. There may be a wait period but it will be worth the time and effort. Keeping a PMA, planning for the future and by doing some follow through will help make these things happen.

Now for a quick change in thought, and not to steal anyone’s thunder, our American Legion Department of Colorado will hold their Mid-Year Convention in Colorado Springs the latter part of January, and their annual Convention also will be here in June. These Conventions are open for all Legionnaires (meaning you and me). Attendance either as a delegate or as a general member is encouraged to witness how business of the Legion is conducted and a time to meet and greet other Legionnaires from different parts of Colorado and learn what their concerns are and how compatible they are with our concerns.



## **Bringing a Little South to the West** **Immediate Past Post Commander Jay Bowen**

For years I have been fascinated by the number of otherwise seemingly intelligent people who every January 1<sup>st</sup> make promises they know they can't possibly keep. In the interest of full disclosure, I too have gotten caught up in the tradition. But I finally freed myself from the peer pressure of vowing to become a better person, while knowing that's never gonna happen. At least as a New Year's Resolution.

And it's pretty interesting to see the Resolutions made by my "Bubbas" in the South compared to my "Buds" in the West and from around the country. Back "home" most of the folks I grew up with or know would resolve to drink less (ha), work less (ha again), and hunt more (that's one they are most likely to try and keep). The drinking less Resolution normally occurred after the New Year's Eve party. That would last until the following weekend. Work less NEVER happens. I've always noticed that for the most part, many of my Southern friends were dedicated hard workers. I don't know that I ever talked to one of them who liked what they were doing, but they put everything into their work regardless. And then have a drink in the evening. The more they drank, the more they hated their job. The more they talked about their job, the more they drank. Hmmm. There's a recipe for keeping a New Year's Resolution. The hunting more would be offset by, you guessed it...they would not take time off from work! But they would definitely try, and on rare occasion they would do it. But it never lasted long.

Now my "Buds" here in the West are a little different while the same. Many of them would Resolve to be a better person in the New Year. How do you measure that? You can't! But if you want a New Year's Resolution you can claim successful, this is a good one. Some would promise to ski more. That one is pretty easy to forget. In the New Year, they would do good while the slopes are open. Then when the next season came around, the Resolution is forgotten. Then there's the classic, "I Resolve to volunteer more time in the community!" or, "I want to get more involved in the Post!" Let me know if that's one of yours. I can help you get started and will help you keep that one!

No matter where you live, you always find the old standards of, "I will quit smoking," or "I will lose weight." I don't know that I have ever seen anyone successfully do either of those after a New Year's Resolution. If you want to quit smoking or lose weight, you don't need a New Year to do it. Just do it (pun intended)!

I've only been able to keep one New Year's Resolution for any length of time. Several years ago, I vowed to stop making New Year's Resolutions. But I think it is time for me to break that one and make one more New Year's Resolution. For 2015, I promise to drink less, work less, hunt more, be a better person, learn to ski (I can't ski more if I've never done it), volunteer more, lose weight and quit smoking! I can say without reservation the last one should be the easiest to keep. I haven't had a cigarette, pipe, or cigar in 39 years. But as a reformed smoker, I can't say I have successfully quit. The urge never goes away completely.

Don't stop making New Year's Resolutions! At least your heart's in the right place. And who knows, maybe you'll be able to find one or two you can actually keep. My favorite Bubba (my brother) certainly has kept a couple. He quit work (retired actually), hunts more, and is trying to be a better person (he hosts several hunts a year for Wounded Warriors and kids with disabilities). But he hasn't quit smoking or drinking. Oh well, 3 out of 5 ain't bad.



## Post Officers 2014-2015

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Gregory Smith	520-784-3555
Sr. Vice Cdr	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Jr. Vice Cdr	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Adjutant	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	719-244-3535
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Chaplain	Stan Hamamoto	719-322-6959
Sergeant-at-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Historian	Rob Johnson	719-421-9201
Post Executive Committeeman	Jay Bowen	719-574-1223
Service Officer	Lyle Hagelberg	719-594-4039
Judge Advocate	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610



## Auxiliary Officers 2014-2015

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Kari Ann Smith	520-784-3193
Vice President	Theresa Wiederspahn	719-360-1064
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Donna Testorff	719-510-4567
Chaplain	Joan Ciani	719-579-9194
Sergeant-At-Arms	Becky Hall	719-231-0597
Historian	Pat Weaver	719-638-4763



## Sons of The American Legion 2014-2015

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
1st Vice Commander	Marv Weaver	719-244-3535
Adjutant	Ken Taylor	719-495-8190
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Chaplain	Christopher Keith	719-382-7845
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177



## ALR Officers 2014-2015

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Andy Gilbert	719-231-6696
Vice President	Gregory Smith	520-784-3555
Secretary	John Duenas	719-291-9733
Treasurer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Road Captain	Mike Barger	719-290-3218



## Centennial 209 Family Calendar of Events












5 Feb	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
6 Feb	Hamdogger 6:00 pm
13 Feb	ALR Pasta Dinner Be a supporter of ALR - <b>RSVP REQUIRED</b>
14 Feb	Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary Meetings 10:00 am
14 Feb	<b>Happy Valentines Day</b>
20 Feb	Steak Night! 6:00 pm - <b>RSVP REQUIRED</b>
24 Feb	ALR General Membership Meeting (5:30 social hour) (6:30 meeting) SAL Membership Meeting (6:00)
27 Feb	Fish Fry 6:00 pm - <b>RSVP REQUIRED</b>
5 Mar	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
6 Mar	Hamdogger 6:00 pm
7 Mar	Biker Ball Post 38 (ALR)
13 Mar	ALR Pasta Dinner Be a supporter of ALR - <b>RSVP REQUIRED</b>
14 Mar	General membership Breakfast 9:00am Legion/Auxiliary 10 am
20 Mar	Steak Night! 6:00 pm - <b>RSVP REQUIRED</b>
24 Mar	ALR General Membership Meeting (5:30 social hour) (6:30 meeting) SAL Membership Meeting (6:00)
27 Mar	Fish Fry 6:00 pm - <b>RSVP REQUIRED</b>
2 Apr	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
3 Apr	Hamdogger 6:00 pm
10 Apr	ALR Pasta Dinner Be a supporter of ALR - <b>RSVP REQUIRED</b>
11 Apr	General membership Breakfast 9:00am Legion/Auxiliary 10 am Steak Night! 6:00 pm - <b>RSVP REQUIRED</b>
17 Apr	Steak Night! 6:00 pm - <b>RSVP REQUIRED</b>
19 Apr	ALR Scheduled Ride—Franktown
24 Apr	Fish Fry 6:00 pm - <b>RSVP REQUIRED</b>
28 Apr	ALR General Membership Meeting (5:30 social hour) SAL Membership Meeting (6:00)
1 May	Hamdogger 6:00 pm
7 May	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
8 May	ALR Dinner
9 May	General membership Breakfast 9:00am Legion/Auxiliary 10 am Steak Night! 6:00 pm - <b>RSVP REQUIRED</b>
15 May	Steak Night! 6:00 pm - <b>RSVP REQUIRED</b>
22 May	Fish Fry 6:00 pm - <b>RSVP REQUIRED</b>
26 May	ALR General Membership Meeting (5:30 social hour) SAL Membership Meeting (6:00)



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
CENTENNIAL POST 209  
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COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80936-5334

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ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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~ January 2015 ~						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Happy New Year! 	2 HamDogger Nite! 1800 hours	3
4	5	6	7	8 Executive Committee Meeting 1830 hrs. 	9 Pasta Dinner ALR CANCELLED for Jan. 	10 Post/Unit Monthly Meeting 0900 Breakfast 1000 Meetings 
11	12	13	14	15	16 Steak Night! RSVP Required! 1800 hrs.	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Mid-Year Conference Elegante Hotel Chicken Fried Steak \$11.50 1800 hours 	24 Mid-Year Conference Elegante Hotel 
25 Mid-Year Conference Elegante Hotel 	26	27 ALR Monthly Meeting 1830 hrs. Social 1730 SAL Squadron 209 1800  	28	29	30	31

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) [jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com](mailto:jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com) or Kariann Smith (520-784-3193) [kariannsmith@me.com](mailto:kariannsmith@me.com)