

The Centennial

VOLUME I EDITION 5

MAY 2020



AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209

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MEET YOUR 2019 - 2020 OFFICERS!!

2019-2020 American Legion Post 209 Officers

Commander: Lino Calica 719.963.0956	Finance Officer: Mike Barger 719.290.3218	Executive Committeeman: Marvin Weaver Jr. 719.244.3535
Sr. Vice Commander: Joseph Schmidt 651.328.9029	Chaplain: Stan Hamamoto 719.322.6959	Judge Advocate: Marvin Weaver Sr. 719.638.4763
Jr. Vice Commander: Desiree Guerra 719.464.4699	Historian: Mike Wescott	Service Officer: Art Carter 603.913.3261
Adjutant: Jerry Hopper	Sgt At Arms: Sarah Tobin 719.439.7724	Club Manager: Art Kimbrel 719.339.4610

2019-2020 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers

President: Cathy Barger 719.290.3163	Secretary: Pat Weaver 719.638.4763	Chaplain: Madelyne "Hooty" Newborn
Vice President: Donna Testorff	Treasurer: Kellie Hayes 719.494.7167	Historian: Royce Hopper
		Sgt At Arms: Kris Floyd 719.308.2150

2019-2020 Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209 Officers

Commander: Eric Testorff 719.510.4177	Adjutant: Ken Taylor 719.461.4047	Sgt At Arms: Bob Ingram 480.353.8234	Chaplain: Steve Cox 970.580.8191
Sr. Vice Commander: Michael Wescott	Jr. Vice Commander: Vacant		Historian: Evan Schwartzbart

2020-2021 American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers

President: Steve Hayes 719.494.7166	Treasurer: Kellie Hayes 719.494.7167	Vice President: Tim McDowell 719.510.9907	Road Captain: Wade Newborn 719.360.4956
Secretary: Mike Sylvester	Sgt At Arms: Mark Griffin		

2019-2020 Amateur Radio Club Officers

President: Jon Davis K0YOV	Vice President: George Johnson KE0ALQ	Director: Jim Harris W0EM
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Secretary: Harvey LeCato W1JU

Treasurer: Henry Russell KCONAJ

To Our Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209 Family:

As you are aware, all meetings and events scheduled for April were cancelled. We have been closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation and made the determination to cancel all May events as well. Our June Department Convention as well as National Convention have all been cancelled. We will continue to monitor this ever-evolving situation and keep you up to date with decisions and information. The safety of our members is our top priority.

Because we were not able to hold elections in April, and we are unable to hold a meeting in May, and our Department Convention is cancelled, our current officers will remain at their position until such time we can meet and hold elections during a Post meeting. We are assessing the situation so we are able to handle it in accordance with our constitution and bylaws.

Thank you for your understanding during these trying times. As with every crisis in the history of the world, this too shall pass.



For God and Country,
Your Post 209 Leadership



FROM THE DESK & MIND OF THE COMMANDER

Greetings Legionnaires and families,

Here's wishing that everyone is being safe, well and in the best of health. As you all know, Governor Polis' "Stay at Home" executive order has been extended until April 27, 2020. The question is will Governor Polis lift the executive order and allow businesses in the state to open their doors or will the Governor extend the stay at home executive order through May or June? We have been monitoring the progress of the COVID-19 locally and with the CDC. Here is the Colorado Case Summary website where you may go and get updated COVID-19 information. <https://covid19.colorado.gov/case-data>

As I mentioned in our April newsletter, our Post 209 Executive Committee leadership team's main priority is for the health, welfare and safety of our members, volunteers and guests. So, we decided to suspend all Post programs, events and dinner activities for the month of April and will now be extending the closure of the Post until May 31. We will reevaluate our options once Governor Polis gives the all clear. Due to the closure of Post activities, events, dinners and programs being suspended until further notice, our Post Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and TALARC elections has been postponed until a later date. Post 209 ALR elected their new officers in January. The following events has been currently cancelled; 2020-2021 American Legion National Convention, Boys & Girls State and 2020 American Legion Baseball. The Department Convention was also cancelled, and our District 7 Convention is still under discussion.

Now is the time to get involved and learn more about The American Legion and its history. Just open your browser and type; <https://www.legion.org/alei> and take the American Legion basic training course. At the end of the course, there is a 40 question test you can take. All you need to do is get 31/40 correct. Once you complete the test, you will receive a certificate plus an opportunity to purchase a pin for only \$5.00. You will have a better understanding the history of The American Legion.

I would like to take this time to thank everyone for your understanding and being patient through this COVID-19 pandemic crisis. It was hard on the leadership team to decide to close our Post for May, knowing there will be lost revenue. But that is a sacrifice we are willing make for the safety our members, families and guests. Please feel to contact me by email or phone if you have any questions. My contact information is email: legionnaire.calica@yahoo.com or Cell: 719.963.9256.

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

Lino Calica
Post Commander





FROM THE DESK OF THE SR. VICE COMMANDER

COVID-19 has become a routine phrase. We hear about how it is affecting our health, economy, and our very way of daily life. Society has forever changed because of this global pandemic, but even though this virus is spreading across the world, the men and women serving in uniform do not have the option to stay home for weeks or even months. They continue to prepare, train, and deploy to protect this great country.

Throughout history, The American Legion have many stories of a local post coming through for its community. From natural disasters, to supporting a local Veteran in need, The American Legion continues to show up when they are most needed. This continued to be the case when our Post was contacted by the 407th Army Field Support Battalion (407th AFSBn) on Fort Carson. When the Department of Defense issued the order that all service members will wear face coverings when social distancing wasn't possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic spreading across the nation, the 407th AFSBn began the process to make face masks for Fort Carson's over 24,000 soldiers. Fort Caron is home to the famed 4th Infantry Division and one of The American Legion's founding members Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt Jr.

When the call came to assist, the American Legion Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 family leadership knew these soldiers could not go without this vital protective equipment, and we jumped swiftly into action. Over the course of just 4 hours we were able to raise just over \$1,000. We collected enough money for the materials necessary to make hundreds of masks for the soldiers of Fort Carson.

The masks are to be produced by a contract managed by the AFSBn. These civilian contactors are working tirelessly to make as many masks as they can per day. As they are completed, the masks will be distributed to the Soldiers. The Soldiers will now be able to complete their daily tasks safely and reduce the risk of exposure and transmission of COVID-19.



It never fails, when the call comes, The American Legion answers! We are the continuing driving force in the community that has supported millions of Veterans and service members for over one hundred years.

Joseph A. Schmidt
Post Sr. Vice Commander





FROM THE DESK OF THE JR. VICE COMMANDER

Happy May Legion Family! Can you believe we are just about halfway through 2020 already? Neither can I... I know that its been a difficult time for all of us and we are ready for this craziness to be over. But I hope you have all been taking advantage of the down time.

My last message to you all encouraged you to try something new or maybe spend a little more time on something that you have been neglecting. I truly pray all of you have found some peace in this uneasy time. I have spent a lot of my time doing buddy checks on you!! So, if you happened to get a random phone call from a lady named Dez saying she was from Post 209, that was me!! Now more than ever it is important to reach out and check one another. You never know what someone is going through, and your phone call or text could completely change somebody's day. I hate to bring this up, but suicide among veterans is on the rise again due to the isolation, depression, loss of job's and so many other negatives this pandemic has impressed upon us. So PLEASE, check on your buddies. You could save a life.

I pray you all are staying safe and healthy and I pray we can all be together soon! If any of you need assistance during this time, please do not hesitate to reach out to me for help. Praying for you all!!

Desiree Noechel
Post Jr. Vice Commander



FROM THE DESK OF THE FINANCE OFFICER

As we're sitting at home following the Governor's stay at home order, we're still keeping the Post lights and heat on waiting for the day that we can come back to the confines of the Post. With that being said, we ended the month of March in the red, \$1707 dollars. We're still doing our best at keeping the costs down when it comes to the bills.

We will have our utilities evaluated at the end of the month of April and that should show that we did an excellent job on our upgrades of the lights and windows. We believe our utilities will go down after the evaluation. When I have the final numbers for this upcoming year, I will pass the information on to you.

The month of April will be a costly one to us. We have the insurance due for the building again and that will cost \$4620. We all know we can't do without the insurance, but I feel we've done a great job with this provider and research has told us we really can't get it much lower than we are right now. Hopefully, we will get past this pandemic in the very near future and be able to get back to regular business and continue to do good things for our local veterans and the community.

If anyone needs any assistance while we are under the stay at home orders, especially those members considered in the high-risk category, please don't hesitate to contact any one of our officers. We're here for you and we won't hesitate to drop what we're doing to assist you in getting groceries from the store or provide help wherever else we can. Don't go out and put yourselves at unnecessary risk.

Mike Barger
Post Finance Officer





FROM YOUR POST SERVICE OFFICER

Dual Care

We recognize that some Veterans may wish to get health care from a VA provider as well as a private physician. Dual Care refers to patients who have a VA health care provider and a private health care provider – often for treatment of the same medical condition(s).

Guidelines for Dual Care:

- Provide complete, up-to-date VA provider and private physician contact information (telephone number, address, and fax number) to both health care providers (VA and private).
- Ensure you have signed a Release of Information (ROI) document and have it on file with both your VA and private physician, so each party can exchange health information regarding your care.
- Provide an up-to-date copy of the portions of your patient record that relate to the condition(s) you are being treated for by both health care providers (VA and private).
- If you have a procedure completed or are receiving care from a private physician, it is your responsibility to provide your VA provider with any clinical documentation should you seek follow-up health care or services with the VA.
- Bring all current medication prescription bottles to both of your health care provider appointments (VA and private).
- If requesting to receive medications from a VA pharmacy prescribed by your non-VA provider, please allow your VA provider 7-10 business days to process the request.
- When requesting medication refills or renewals for long-term opiates, please allow 5 to 10 business days (not including weekends & holidays) for provider and pharmacy to review and process.

- For Veterans on long-term opiate agreements, please ensure you are in compliance with your opiate agreement and have a current urine drug screen (UDS) completed prior to request for refill or renewal. **
- Please remember urine drug screens (UDS) can be required every 3 to 6 months as specified in your consent for Long-term opiates or as designated by your provider.

*** Failure to have a current UDS completed may result in a delay in receiving opiate medications.*

For more information

Be Involved in Your Health Care Healthy Living Message

www.prevention.va.gov/Healthy_Living/Be_Involved_in_Your_Health_Care.asp

Veterans Health Library, Be Involved in Your Health Care

www.veteranshealthlibrary.org/HealthyLiving/BeInvolved/

Ask Me 3, National Patient Safety Foundation

www.npsf.org/askme3/

Article from the "Veterans Resource Guide", Eastern CO Health Care System

A.J. Carter
Post Service Officer





FROM THE DESK OF THE POST ADJUTANT

Not unlike the rest of the world, I hope the coronavirus is well on its way into the history books by the time you are reading this. In the meantime, your Post 209 officers have been actively attempting to reach out to the membership to inquire as to your health and wellbeing. I am taking this opportunity to thank those members who are assisting with the Buddy Checks.

It's what we do!

Jerry Hopper
Post Adjutant



FROM THE DESK OF THE SAL COMMANDER

Dear Legion Family and Readers:

As you may know, our Sons of the American Legion Squadron 209 officers and members have been unable to meet in person, or perform many of our traditional functions, such as visits to children in hospitals, or elderly veterans in nursing homes. We have, however, been active online, including participating in Detachment of Colorado conference calls to map out strategy. Locally, we have maintained our collaboration online to take votes on actions that involve the Squadron. These votes, of necessity, were emergency sessions of the Squadron 209 Executive Committee.

The Committee has voted on two expenditures during this time: The first is a grant to a local Eagle Scout candidate who, because of the COVID19 shutdown, has found it nearly impossible to follow the usual fundraising channels to fund his Eagle project.

The Squadron Exec Committee has also voted, as a matter of urgency, to support the soldiers of Fort Carson. Their request for protective masks has hit a delay that threatened to possibly take longer than prudence required. We therefore opted to jump into the breach, so to speak, and front some money for mask materials.

COVID19-based shutdowns and quarantines may be quite an aggravation for now and in the future, but rest assured that the Sons of the American Legion have continued to serve God and Country, our military families, and our community.

Squadron 209, of course, needs your continuing membership and donations. Without our fundraisers, we currently do not have that source of income, even though our mission remains the same. Dear friends, please stay strong, stay safe, stay well... and support your local S.A.L.! My thanks go out to you all.

Eric Testorff
SAL Squadron Commander





TALARC NEWSLETTER INPUT

The Amateur Radio Club certainly wishes health and safety to all Legion members. I am personally available to lend any assistance to Legion members – transportation, groceries, etc. I am a phone call away.

Supporting Scouting – Thirteen Scouts achieved the Radio merit badge at the March Camp Alexander event.

General Membership Meetings – The committee decided to postpone all future events and re-evaluate at the end of the month. For some activity to ease the shelter-in-place activity join us on the Monday night net – join in!!! 146.76 repeater – 107.2 PL.

The club is potentially joining forces (OK maybe radio waves) with the **El Paso County Special Communications Unit (SCU)** to lend assistance when needed for emergencies. We plan to meet with the SCU see how we can help. Field Day 2020 - Perhaps most of you are familiar with the age-old tradition of Field Day. If not – it is a yearly on-air contest event where Hams operate from “woody” locations – usually on emergency power – and work as many stations. We are thinking about Woodland Park – toward Deckers and are having a planning meeting on May 17 th.

!!!!!!! By the way --- All is quiet on the Western front – also the northern, eastern and southern fronts. Sure would like to hear from someone – ANYONE! What will spark your interest to come out and do something fun? Your input will be greatly appreciated.

Contact: Club Secretary, Harvey LeCato 331-1212 mbca@comcast.net



FROM THE DESK OF THE UNIT PRESIDENT

I hope you are all safe and healthy since we have been staying home. We have strength, we have conviction, and we have hope.

Because we cannot hold elections in April, our current officers will remain at their position until such time we can meet and hold elections during our Auxiliary meeting.

With the uncertainty of the duration of the virus, some of the events/programs have been canceled for this year: the American Legion Auxiliary Colorado Girls State program and the National Convention; the 2021 National Convention will be in Phoenix.

Happy Birthday to Cathy Barger, Erika Burd-Cunnington, Annette Coakley, Royce Hopper, Laurel Harman, Sharon Hughes, Kris Mueller, Sarah Tobin, Micah Bowen, and Tiffany Weaver. 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

For those who read my articles with any frequency, you may recall that even though I lived and went to school in Memphis, much of my early life was spent on Arkansas farms with my grandparents. I've shared some stories about growing up and spending "quality" time with each and think it's time to share a few more.

My Dad's parents were sharecroppers. Back then, my Grandad referred to it as "Working for the other fella." They lived in an old shack that didn't have running water or indoor plumbing. They had a two-seater outhouse and a pump to get fresh drinking water next to the house. I never really understood the need for a two-seater outhouse. I don't think anyone ever went in there as a couple. I guess it was so when one side started to fill up, you could switch over to the other seat. For TP, honest to God they had an old Sears and Roebuck catalogue kept in there. Just tear off a sheet or two when you were done. I guess that's what you would call "roughing it."

When we needed water, one of us kids would take a bucket and head to the pump. In the bucket was a little bit of water that we needed to use to "prime the pump." We'd pour the water down the pump shaft to get the rubber O-Ring or piston around the pump wet. That would help create a better seal and pump the water from the ground more easily. You could get it to pump without priming it, but that was a lot more work. I can still taste that water. It was clean and cool coming out of the ground. Man, it tasted good!

We spent almost every weekend and most summer vacations farming for one or both sets of grandparents. They lived about 5 miles from each other just outside Cherry Valley, Arkansas, a town of about 400 people. They were both cotton and soy bean farmers and farmed only a few hundred acres. For both, they farmed just enough to get by until the next season. But that was the norm back in those days.

Because Grandad didn't have running water, in the early days we took our baths by filling a No. 6 washtub on the back porch and take turns taking a bath. There were two boys (me and Bubba), and our two sisters. Normally, our two sisters got to go first because they weren't as dirty as me and Bubba. We'd all use the same water because that's just the way you did it back then. But me and Bubba didn't mind, the water was normally warmer by the time our sisters were finished.

As we got older, Grandad knew he had to figure something else out because we outgrew the washtub. He took some old barn lumber and built a shower. He put a 55 gallon drum on top of the structure and left the lid off so the rain could help fill the drum. He took an old shower head he found from someplace and rigged up a shut off valve you could open and close with a chain. There was no hot and cold choices. It all came out of the barrel. We learned pretty quickly that you never wanted to take a shower early in the morning or late at night. The water was too cold. The best time was mid-afternoon after the sun had a chance to warm the barrel and water inside.

When we didn't have to work the fields, we hung out with Grandad's neighbors across the gravel road. They were the only house for about a mile, and fortunately the two boys and one girl living there were about our age. Sammy and Ray Weaver, and their little sister, I think her name was Linda. That made it fun. We'd play the typical kids' games of Cowboys and Indians and occasionally mess with snakes that liked to hang out at their pond. They not only farmed; they also raised a few head of cattle. That's why they had the pond.

It wasn't a big pond, maybe a hundred yards across. I remember on one occasion we were out playing near the pond and found a snake sunning near the edge, just in the water. We each got a big stick and went about slapping at him. After all, it was our pond and he had no business being there. We would slap at him and he'd go under and come back up somewhere else in the pond. So we stationed ourselves around the pond so we could be ready whenever he popped up. This was fun until I guess he got tired of playing and made a "bee line" toward Bubba. Fortunately, Bubba saw him just in time to raise his club and come down on top of the snake's head, burying him in the mud. We ran over and helped finish him off. We picked him up with one of our sticks and took him to Sammy's and Ray's dad. He told us it was a Cotton Mouth (Water Moccasin). That ended any future snake killin' game. We learned you don't mess with a Cotton Mouth.

I could probably write an entire book on my time with grandparents. I feel very blessed to have known them both and growing up with them. They were as different as night and day, but they all taught me great life lessons that helped shape the man I am today. May God Bless them!

Jay Bowen
Past Post Commander



May 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	2
All Meetings and Events May Be Cancelled. Check our website for Updates!						
3	4 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm	5 Cinco De Mayo	6	7 Executive Committee	8 \$10.00 Meal Aux. Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	9 \$10.00 Meal Installation of Officers 5:00pm; Dinner 6:00pm No Breakfast Meeting This month!  
10 Mother's Day	All Meetings and Post Activities Have Been Cancelled This Month!					16 Armed Forces Day
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	26 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm  	27	28	29	30
31	Notes:					