

THE AMERICAN LEGION – CENTENNIAL POST 209
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October 2005 – NEWSLETTER

Membership Meeting

Saturday October 8, 2005

TREA, Breakfast 9:00 A.M., Meeting 10:00 A.M.
Speaker: Non Commissioned Officers Association
(NCOA) Recognition of WWII Veterans

Officers' Comments

COMMANDER – Bill Marshall

Thank all of you who have renewed for 2006. However, there are still some who did not renew, and I hope they will take the time to think about why they originally joined The American Legion and what we offer to our members and the community. It is not about politics, the war in Iraq or government, rather the young men and women of this country who we support through The American Legion Boys and Girls State, Oratorical Contest, baseball, Eagle Scout of the Year, and of course "Veterans Serving Veterans." Please take just a moment to reflect on your military career and how we can continue to help those in need. It takes all of us to support our community and our veterans and you are a part of the family that is doing this. Thank you for your support in the past and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Veterans Day Parade

This year's parade is scheduled for Saturday, November 5, 9 A.M. start. Yes, it will end in time for those of you who are so inclined to go to the Army vs. AFA football game. We will have the trailer for those who wish to ride and of course as always we need a couple of YOUNGER members to carry the flags. The Cub Scouts will carry the Post banner again this year. Once we know our position in the parade we publish it for all to join us.

The American Legion and "Soldiers for Soldiers" Program: Unlimited Potential for Legion Charities

This is another great opportunity for the Post to make some money, and all you have to do is turn in your old ink jet cartridges and cellular phones. No purchase is required, only the collection of items that might otherwise be disposed of. Post 209 is partnering with a local company, A BYTE ABOVE. They are members of the Legion and Auxiliary and have agreed to be the

collection point. They have two locations: 2376 Academy Place, 570-1984 and 4585 N. Chestnut Street, 268-0584. You can email them at jen@abyteabove.com or check out their website at www.abyteabove.com. The attached list provides those cartridges that are accepted by the program. Thank all of you for your support.

SR. VICE COMMANDER – W.W. Bandler

RECRUITMENT

As you know, last month's newsletter and at our regular Saturday meeting the Post announced a recruiting drive to attract veterans to join Centennial Post 209. We still encourage our members to continue this drive.

However this month the emphasis is on trying to recruit our present members to join us in our regular Saturday meetings held once a month. We need your input and to further the programs we support. It's a little disheartening when only 15 members attend a meeting and 10 of those members are officers of the post. Now comes the good thing: we have breakfast first. It's a lot better than the chow we got in the service. Scrambled eggs (not powdered), ham slices (not spam), hash browns, fresh biscuits and gravy, and real coffee (not powdered). So come join us. Breakfast starts at 9:00 A.M. The meeting starts at 10:00 and is usually over by 11:30. It's only once a month and for only two and a half hours of your time. Hope to see you at our next meeting.

ADJUTANT – Ann Foster

Membership

We are now at 50% with 163 members as of this writing. That is really great, but we must continue to keep up the good work, because we need 16 more members for 55% by the middle of October to stay on track with the target dates established by National. Please REMEMBER you do not have to wait for a renewal notice to renew! You may send your check for \$30.00 to us at any time.

Jr. Shooting

Bill Weeks is to be commended for joining with Maj. Davis at the Widefield NJROTC unit to instruct interested cadets in Air Rifle shooting. They are both making very sure that this instruction is safe and a very good experience for the team that is forming. We will continue to keep you posted as these young people develop their skills. Maybe at some point one of them will be able to participate in The American Legion Junior Shooting National Finals here at the Olympic Training Center USA shooting venue.

Cub Pack 24

The popcorn campaign is off to a good start. Two boys tied last Wednesday for the most popcorn sold at that time and we are looking forward to their progress as they continue. I am very pleased that the Post members have already bought up to \$154.00. I feel we should do well,

and hopefully after the General meeting a number of you will bring in your orders. The support you can provide in person or by mail will really make it possible for these young people to become better future citizens as they learn the values that Scouting imparts. Thanks so much for whatever help you may provide!

Annual Stand Down for Homeless Veterans

The Stand Down for this year will be 20 October, downtown at the City Auditorium from 9:00 A.M. to approximately 4:00 P.M. If you would like to volunteer to help out, please feel free to come for whatever part of the day you might have available. This is a very important part of the Legion mission of veterans helping veterans. Who can do better than we can to aid our fellow military members? If you don't know what a Stand Down is, please feel free to call and ask or better yet come to the General Meeting, so I can tell you.

CHAPLAIN – Mario Teracena

A PROFOUND VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

Five hundred and thirteen years ago three wooden ships sailing from Spain due west sighted land on October 12th. This unprecedented voyage in 1492 opened the gate to Europe for exploration, innovation, commerce and cultural exchange. This event also brought the colonization and exploitation of the American continent and its indigenous population.

Against all odds, this tremendous epic was carried out only by the personal courage, valor, perseverance, solid convictions and faith of one man: Christopher Columbus. His seamanship and cosmography were excellent, and he knew with certainty that the world was round. Columbus's goal was to find a direct route from Europe to China and India in the east in order to buy and trade goods. Columbus was sure that by sailing west around the world, he would reach his objective. Unintentionally, however, he discovered a new world.

Columbus believed he was divinely inspired and guided. He envisioned a world of free trade with the opportunity to spread Christendom. For centuries, we have honored his memory. However, recently he has been vilified and maligned by irresponsible political statements about his moral character. Even history books have been "revised" to follow "correct" trends. He has been called racist and responsible for the obliteration of Indian cultures have been unjustifiably compared and judged according to the standards of modern society. The 13th and 14th centuries were quite a different world. It is true that some of the after effects of his discovery were disastrous and sad for the original inhabitants of the Americas. He did not enslave or kill anyone. Some of the Spanish colonists, impatient and greedy in their search for gold, introduced forced labor on the natives during his absence. Upon his return he stated "love one another as I have loved you," and, "treat them with kindness and they will lead you to discovery." Unfortunately, Columbus was not a good administrator and the settlements soon became divided, rebellious and embroiled in transcontinental intrigue. It took years to restore order, but by then the natives' servitude had become irreversibly established.

We often forget that civilization has not always been kind and honorable. Since the pre-dawn of history, all mankind, including the Native Americans, have always engaged in bloody wars, slavery, human sacrifices and atrocities. All the Europeans who followed Columbus failed to see the importance of hundreds of differences of Indian cultures. To them the indigenous people were primitive and an obstacle to their goals, competing for land and resources and only valuable as a source of labor. They did not see them as a united people or nation; consequently they were easily subdued with more advanced weaponry. We cannot apologize for what has been erroneous and shameful, or lamenting what the ancient civilizations of the Americas could have achieved, but we should learn from the past. History is relevant. It is time to acknowledge our history as something that really happened, how it affects us today and more important, how we can reconcile and do better tomorrow. The desire for revenge that seems to consume us today is counter productive.

Christopher Columbus was not a villain. He was a great sea admiral and a magnanimous man, but a poor administrator. Those who honor his memory and celebrate his voyage of discovery on October 12th should have the right to do so free of interference by groups that threaten violence, and groups that serve a political agenda of hate rather than promoting justice, harmony, reconciliation and search for truth. Without this, what compelling reason do we have for promoting fairness and respect of other views, culture and heritages?

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

- 8 Oct----Breakfast/membership meeting
- 12 Oct----Columbus Day
- 13 Oct----Start of Yom Kippur
- 20 Oct----Veterans Stand Down Day
- 26 Oct----Pikes Peak Veterans Council
- 30 Oct----Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 31 Oct----Halloween

2004-2005 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
2004-2005 Auxiliary Unit	
President	Dot Dassero
Secretary/Treasurer	Barbara Johnson
Chaplain	Open
Sergeant-at-Arms	Open

Calendar

October 2005						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Daylight Savings Time Ends	31 Halloween					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Membership Mitg. Breakfast, 9 AM Meeting 10 AM District visitation
9	10 Columbus Day	11	12	13 Yom Kippur	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Veterans Stand Down Day	21	22
23	24	25	26 PPVC	27	28	29

HAPPY HALLOWEEN OCTOBER 31