

CENTENNIAL 209 NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 23 EDITION 12 December 2009
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Commander's Comments
Philip Larsen

Merry Christmas to each and everyone!

My December Newsletter article is primarily going to consist of my thanking each and every member who expressed their prayers, cards and expressions of support to me and my family over the past month when I went into the hospital for what should have been a simple operation. You get a better appreciation of what is meant by being a member of the American Legion Family, when you stumble and encounter a little adversity in your life, there is no hesitation whatsoever in the offering of support one receives when opening oneself to the Family! I know it was the result my wife's concern for my operation's recovery that; when it was discovered that I had numerous blood clots in both of my lungs and one on the way up my right thigh, I had been driven to the Penrose Hospital's Emergency Room and been admitted over my reluctance. I also know that my recovery over the next eight days was the result of God's will and your prayers and best wishes being sent by all of you. I will do my best to thank each and every one of you!

Since the Post is very interested in getting more directly involved in communicating with Holiday Mail for Heroes for Any OEF or Any OIF Soldier, the timing of receiving the following information for sending letters and cards to the deployed troops over the upcoming holidays couldn't have been at a better time. We just have to be aware of the following restrictions when sending these cards and letters to connect with our troops:



President's Column
Jackie Bowen

We have eight new members that I would like to welcome to our Auxiliary family; Veronica Zeitvogel, Danielle Cady, Fern Sena, Betty Sweet, Kimberly Hall, Heather Cable, Misty Wallace, Leslie Gaitan. Ladies, congratulations on a job well done. We are at 105.6% of our membership goal. Keep up the good work.

If anyone would like to sign up to adopt a Veteran in Bruce McCandless nursing home, there are about ten Veterans that need sponsors and you can contact Mary Jane Miles at maryagnes103@yahoo.com.

The Cub Scout Pack our Post sponsors is taking donations for Christmas presents for the Westside Veterans. There is a box to accept these donations in the foyer of the Post. Some of the items needed are shoe boxes for gifts, wrapping paper, toiletries for men and women, small holiday candies, socks, gloves, and t-shirts.

Mid-Year conference will held at the Radisson Hotel, 3333 Quebec Street in Denver. You can call 303-321-3500 for reservations. When you make your reservations make sure to mention you are with the American Legion to get special room rates.

Before the Prime Rib dinner we had the honor of meeting 2Lt. Steve Cady. He is in the Unit in Afghanistan that the Cop Keating event supported. He is home on R&R but was in Afghanistan when the troops received the gifts. He said this would be the best Christmas for them and they were extremely grateful. It was a very moving moment and I'm sorry all of you couldn't be there for this heartwarming moment.

In lieu of meeting in December we will be joining the Legionnaires for a party. I hope to see all of you there. If you can't make the party have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly,
Jackie Bowen



Commander's Comments
Philip Larsen (continued)



Judge Advocate
Charles Zeitvogel

A n y O E F o r O I F S o l d i e r
H o l i d a y M a i l f o r H e r o e s
P . O . B o x 5 4 5 6
C a p i t o l H e i g h t s , M D 2 0 7 9 1 - 5 4 5 6

Letters going to Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC):.

A n y R e c o v e r i n g S o l d i e r W R A M C
H o l i d a y M a i l f o r H e r o e s
P . O . B o x 5 4 5 6
C a p i t o l H e i g h t s , M D 2 0 7 9 1 - 5 4 5 6

Due to security restrictions, Walter Reed cannot accept generic mail addressed to "A Recovering Soldier" or "Any Soldier." In past years, thousands of cards were returned to senders because of generic addresses, many sent in response to misleading e-mails.

HOWEVER, the Red Cross CAN accept, screen, and deliver holiday cards and letters sent to encourage our wounded heroes recovering at Walter Reed at the address shown above. Do NOT enclose gift cards or money.

Cards and letters should NOT be mailed before 4 November 2009, and postmarked NO later than December 7 to reach service members recovering at Walter Reed.

In summary, Thank all of you for caring and sharing your prayers with Jaye and I; plus, let's see how many cards and letters we can send to our troops over the next two weeks!

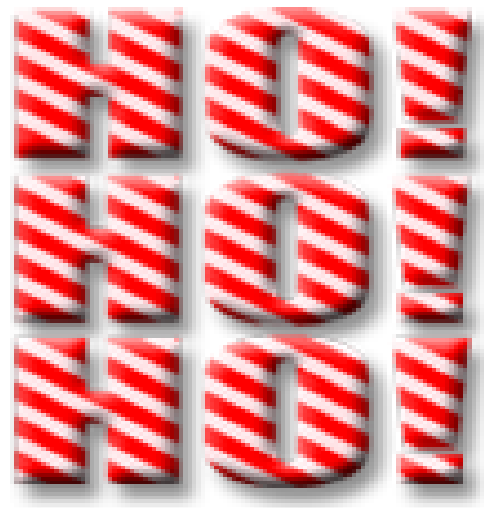
Lastly, I just want to express my gratitude to all the Officers and Past Commanders who were able to pull off an outstanding Initiation Ceremony for the newly initiated members of Centennial Post 209. Thank you one and all, I am truly blessed to have you backing me up as Commander!

For God and Country
Phil Larsen

Easy Contact to US Congressman

Contact your U.S. Representative or Senator the easy way. Here's how. Each Representative and Senator has a web-page. Go to their web-page and click on the link for "contact" and then enter the personal information asked for, which is usually your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address. After that there is may be another dropdown box with various categories of topics, click on the topic that most closely fits your questions or comments and then go to the message box and type in your message, questions or comments. Then click on the send button. That is all there is to it. Easy! Then, within 12 to 24 hours a response is sent back from one of their staff members.

Example – to contact Representative Doug Lamborn of the 5th Congressional District, to get to his web-page, type: www.lamborn.house.gov and that will to his web-page. For Senator Bennet it would be www.bennet.senate.gov and that gets his web-page. A bit different for Senator Udall, there are two Senators Udall. Mark Udall from Colorado, and Tom Udall from New Mexico. In this case type in the senator's first name and last name. Example: Senator Mark Udall from Colorado it would be www.markudall.senate.gov. Now, go ahead and contact your representatives and senators. It is just (snap) that easy.





Senior Vice Notes
Jay Bowen



Chaplain
Mario Taracena

It gives me great pleasure to announce that just 4 months into the 2010 recruiting year, we have topped the 100% mark. I want to congratulate everyone reading this newsletter for helping us achieve this amazing goal. But we don't want to stop now, let's consider this just the beginning. If you haven't brought us at least one new member, I would encourage you to look around your neighborhood, your workplace, your church, or anywhere you gather with your friends and tell them about the American Legion. Let them share in the same benefits and camaraderie you enjoy with your membership.

My wish for all of you this holiday season is improved health and prosperity. As we celebrate the Thanksgiving season, let's always be thankful for the bountiful gifts we have and not dwell on the few things we lack. We live in the greatest country in the world. There are more people migrating to our land than all other countries combined. Let's not take that liberty and the riches we have for granted. And this Christmas season, let's set aside some time to celebrate the reason we have a Christmas. I hope we never take Christ out of Christmas. We should also continue to remember our active duty men and women who serve all over the world. They now have the watch we once had. It is their turn to ensure our safety and freedom. Let's keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

Thanks again for all your hard work to get us over the 100% membership mark. Don't stop now!

Merry Christmas!!!!



I would like everyone to keep in your prayers the Following Legionnaires and Auxiliary Member.

Lloyd Peterson, Tom Hetherinton, or Commander Phil Larsen and Auxiliary member and wife to our Commander Jaye Larsen. All are home and recovery from their various medical procedures.

We do care about the members of the American Legion Family and as such we would like to be notified if you are sick, in the hospital or going to have a medical procedure. Please notify the Post chaplain Mario Taracena at 719-495-0363 or the Unit Chaplain Marion Daughtery at 719-637-9555 or the Post at 719-599-8624 and leave a message or email at AmLegion209@base.comcast.biz.

TIS THE SEASON.....

The holiday season is here and we are being bombarded with advertising and enticements to purchase a variety of items. With so much distraction from the lights and noise it seems the old traditions of Christmas are disappearing fast.

Some "enlightened people" have even suggested changing the name for something more secular by saying Happy Holiday: "We don't want to offend anyone by saying Merry Christmas". While we become more materialistic, sophisticated or politically correct aren't we forgetting the real meaning of Christmas?

It's about honoring and celebrating the birth of baby Jesus. It means warm hearts, helping others and appreciate our blessings and being thankful for what we have. It is a holiday where the true meaning should not be forgotten and follows the admonition of the Apostle Paul: "In everything give thanks" (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14)

Merry Christmas to you and your families.

Mario

**Post Officers
2009-2010**

**Centennial 209
Calendar of Events**

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Phil Larsen	719-591-2417
Sr. Vice Cdr	Jay Bowen	719-574-1223
Jr. Vice Cdr	Robert Brietske	719-266-8790
Adjutant	Larry Johnson	719-622-0344
Finance Officer	Norman Moyer	719-392-3725
Chaplain	Mario Taracena	719-495-0363
Sergeant-at-Arms	Robert Rydell	719-634-4203
Historian	Richard Longacre	719-391-8138
Post Executive Committeeman	Neal Thomas	719-392-1510
Service Officer	John Brown	719-331-8160
Judge Advocate	Charles Zeitvogel	
Past Commander	Bill Marshall	719-495-0088

26 Nov	Thanksgiving Day
3 Dec	Post Executive Committee Meeting 6:30
12 Dec	NO BREAKFAST NO GENERAL MEETING Attitude Adjustment 5:30 P.M. Christmas Party 6:30 P.M.
19 Dec	End of Food Drive
22 Dec	Distribution of Christmas Baskets
25 Dec	Christmas Day
31 Dec	New Year's Eve
1 Jan 2010	New Year's Day
2 Jan	Post Home is Rented
7 Jan	Post Executive Meeting 6:30 P.M.
9 Jan	Breakfast 9:00 A.M. Post & Aux Meeting 10:00 A.M.

Post Email: AmLegion209@base.comcastbiz.net
Web Site: americanlegioncoloradosprings.org

**Auxiliary Officers
2009-2010**

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Jackie Bowen	719-574-1223
Vice President	Annie Peterson	719-599-3818
Secretary/Historian	Kim Brietske	719-266-8790
Treasurer	Mary Grier	719-536-0438
Chaplain	Marion Daugherty	719-637-9555
Sergeant-AT-Arms	Jaye Larsen	719-591-2417

**Board of Trustees
2009-2010**

Term (Years)	Name	Telephone
President	Neal Thomas	719-392-1510
Commander	Phil Larsen	719-591-2417
Finance Officer	Norman Moyer	719-392-3725
Member 2 Yr	Larry Johnson	719-322-0644
Member 2 Yr	Alton Cyriaque	
Member 1 yr	Chuck Zeitvogel	
Member 1 yr	Bill Marshall	719-495-0088

18 Jan	Martin Luther King Birthday
4 Feb	Post Executive Committee Meeting 6:30
13 Feb	BREAKFAST 9:00 A.M. GENERAL MEETING 10:00 A.M. Proposed Valentines Dinner/Dance.
4 Mar	Post Executive Committee Meeting 6:30
13 Mar	BREAKFAST 9:00 A.M. GENERAL MEETING 10:00 A.M. Proposed American Legion Birthday Dinner/ Celebration

Cub Scout Pack 24 Warms the Westside

Please bring in your new or gently used, cleaned and/or mended winter coats of all sizes and adult gloves. We are helping Westside Cares collect winter coats to fill a large increase in requests for these items. Space is limited so they do not have room for lightweight coats or other clothing items. Items will be accepted through December 9, 2009. Please contact Kathy New at 660-4070 if you have any questions.

A box has been provided at the AL Post 209 home as a collection point.

Monthly Breakfast/Meetings

We host our General Membership Meeting on the 2nd Saturday of every month unless posted in the monthly newsletter.

Our breakfast, prior to the General Membership Meeting, at 9:00 a.m. has proven to be a great success as those who have attended can attest to.

Beginning in January the cost of the breakfast will be raised to \$8.00. The reason for this is because we cannot get volunteers to help with the cleanup afterwards, therefore \$ 1.00 per person will be given to the Auxiliary for their help in cleanup after the breakfast.

This is a great way to start the weekend and best of all MOM doesn't have to cook. No reservations are required.

We offer a great selection of food and fruits, however, the cooks and kitchen committee reserve the right to change the menu and surprise you with a selection of different dishes from time to time. Come on down and see what we have.



Finance Officer
Norm Moyer

Keeping the financial records of the Post and its activities is a very time consuming activity and as such I am again requesting help. If you have accounting experience and understand Quick-Books I need your help. Please come to a meeting and let us know that you can help.

We are always looking for help with fund raising within the Post. Our last fund raising activity with the Butter Braids went well but, as always we could have used more help. Another fund raiser that is upcoming is the 2010 calendars. They will be available in the near future. Please support this endeavor.

We are always looking for ideas, and one that has been proposed deals with doing raffles. In order to do this we need to have someone trained as a games manager. If you might be interested in helping us raise money through this endeavor please let us know.

Merry Christmas to all and to all a Happy New Year!!



Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209

The Son's of The American Legion (SAL) are a program of the American legion. And is recognized throughout The American Legion worldwide. Post 209 has a chartered Squadron and we would like to re-vitalize it with new members and get it active.

Eligibility: You must be a male descendant (sons and grandsons including stepsons and adopted sons) of a member of The American Legion. You are also eligible to belong to the SAL is you are a male descendant of a honorably discharged veteran who has passed and their service would have qualified them to belong to the American Legion. If you are a male Legionnaire and your father or grandfather was in the military you can also become a member of The SAL.

The dues for the SAL as \$ 20.00 per year and are eligible to a member from the day they are born.

The Son's of the American Legion Detachment of Colorado have consistently been leading in contributing the Children Welfare Foundation and activating with The Veterans Administration Hospital in Denver and around the state.

All Current members of the SAL and anyone who would like to become a member of the SAL is invited to attend the General Membership Meeting of the American Legion on 9 Jan 2010 and after the meeting there will be an organizational meeting that is aimed at getting the Squadron going.

If you have questions please feel free to call the Post Adjutant Larry Johnson at 719-599-8624





Cub Pack 24 News John Brown

Pack 24 from West side Colorado Springs has several projects going on for the end of the year and the coming holidays. First is "Operation Give Back to a veteran" hosted by Sandy. She is collecting donations for west side veterans for the holiday season. The donations are needed for 42 West side veterans (32 men and 10 women) over the holiday season. Items needed are: men and women toiletries, like toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, feminine hygiene, gloves, socks, t-shirts, small candies and treats, wrapping paper and tape, scarves and any other donations are welcome. A box has been provided at the post home. This effort runs from 4 Nov through 16 Dec 2009. Thanks for your help.

Also Pack 24 is collecting coats for the Westside homeless. This event is being hosted by Kathy and the coats can be left in the same drop box as the above collection.

The pack is doing fine. They collected over \$13,000 in popcorn sales for the pack. One young scout collected over \$3,000 in sales and will be receiving a scout scholarship for his efforts. Currently we have over 45 registered scouts in Pack 24. The pack wishes to thank the American Legion for allowing them to participate in the Veterans Day Parade. They had a blast.

If you bought popcorn, you can leave your money with the Adjutant Larry Johnson and he will give you your popcorn. Call ahead to make sure he is there, 719-599-8624

You and your family are invited to THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY Christmas Party and dinner to held at the Post located at 3613 Jeannine Dr, Colorado springs Co 80917. The event will begin at **5:30 P.M.** We ask that if you are bringing children that you also bring a small gift with their name on it as Santa Claus will be visiting be handing out gifts to the children. The dinner will be served to be determined at this time. time of the season and meet new planned for the children to participate. The cost for the dinner will be child-plate free. Children 5-10 years will charge will be \$ 10.00 per person.



Please RSVP by calling the Post at 719-599-8624 and leaving a message as to how many will be in your party or by emailing the Post at AmLegion209@base.comcast.biz. We would like to know how many children will be attending.

STILL TASTY:

Have you wondered about the food on your shelves and whether they are still good after the due date. I ran across this and thought you might like to review it if interested.

Your Ultimate Shelf Life Guide located at <http://stilltasty.com> [Source: <http://stilltasty.com> Oct 09 ++]



May the Holidays be fun and gracious to all.
May you get what you wished for.



Adjutant's Words
Larry L Johnson

I sincerely hope you and your family have a great, safe and Happy Holiday Season.

We have surpassed our goal of 375 and currently have 408 members for 2010.

348 renewal notices were mailed to members of the Post at the beginning of November. If you are one of the members who received a letter from the Commander Philip Larsen, I would like to ask you to please take a moment and renew your membership. Your continued membership allows us to support activities like the support of the troops from Iraq that were overrun and lost all of their personal possessions, The Boys State Program, Scouting and activities throughout the Post.

The membership year for the Legion does run from 1 January to 31 December of every year. If you have not renewed by 31 January 2010 you will be considered delinquent and your subscription to the National Magazine will discontinue depending on what month you joined.

For many of you this could be your last newsletter unless you renew your membership.

As a Post we continue to push the envelope if everything we do or sponsor. On 24 October, we purchased and packed up items for the soldier in Iraq and that night we had over 50 Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion present for the early bird dinner. What a day to remember in our history book.

On the 14th of November we again pushed ourselves as we hosted the Department of Colorado for an Adjutant and Service Officer day of training. We did it again, as we Hosted the Department of Colorado for an Adjutant and Service Officer Training session from 10:00 to 3:00 p.m.. This too, proved to be outstanding as we had participants from the Western Slope as well as from Denver and the southern part of Colorado.

That evening we pushed the envelope again when we initiated 23 Legionnaires and about 80 people for dinner. What a day!

What are we doing in 2010, the only thing that I can say is that we can go as far as we want to as long as we have your support and participation in the programs, activities and functions of the Post.

Hope to see you all soon.

TOY/FOOD DRIVE 2009

The Legion Family is participating in a Holiday food drive to help those who could use a little cheer during the Holiday Season.

From now to Friday, 19 December we are conducting a food drive.

YOU can help by collecting non-perishable items and bringing them to the Post at 3613 Jeannine Dr or by bringing them to Ragland's Trading Post located at 4739 N. Carefree Circle (Carefree Village Shopping Center). You can drop off items for the food drive between 10:00 am and 7:00 pm Monday through Friday's and 9:00 am, to 3:00 P.M. on Saturdays. Show your Legion ID card and let "Butch" know you are a Legionnaire when you drop off the canned goods so we can get your name and can recognize your efforts.

Don't forget we have until 19 December to make a difference in the community.



Initiation New Members 2009

The Initiation of new members on the 14 of November was a great success. We initiated 23 new Legionnaires into THE AMERICAN LEGION and Post 209. We had about 80 people in attendance who also stayed for dinner that evening.

If you weren't there you missed a fantastic Prime Rib dinner and the comradeship that was being displayed by all was awesome.

Please watch, as we will be doing another Initiation in the future. When you see the notice make plans to attend. Below is a picture from the initiation.

