The Centennial







VOLUME 25 EDITION 3 MARCH 2011 Mail: P.O. Box 25334, Colorado Springs, Co 80936-5334 Post: 3613 Jeannine Dr., Colorado Springs, Co 80917-8002, Telephone 719-599-8624

Email: americanlegionpost209@yahoo.com

Web site www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org



From the Desk and Mind of the Commander Jav Bowen

This is already shaping up to be a GREAT year for Centennial Post 209. We enhanced our web site by adding PayPal for membership donations, and Post rental, we've finally gotten our Security system set up with a good monitoring system, we had a highly successful Mid-Year Conference with rave reviews from all across the State, we have busted through our All-Time High Membership number, and I could go on and on, but you'll be hearing a lot about all of this for some time from others.

So what does any of that stuff I mentioned above have to do with helping local area Veterans? I'm glad you asked. PayPal offers an opportunity for people to make donations to the Post, which will be used to help Veterans in need. It also will afford an opportunity to attract the folks that don't carry cash or check books to join and be a part of the greatest Veterans organization in the country. The Security system, while it probably won't help our local area Veterans directly, provides a level of comfort to all of us that your stuff (in YOUR Post home) is a little safer. Any time we have a successful event (and by successful I also mean we made money), especially one that is visited by Legionnaires from around the Department; it creates a domino effect to allow us to sponsor future events that are almost guaranteed to grow. And I don't think I really have to tell you the benefits of growing our membership.





As I look ahead, we have Post elections coming up in April. If you've ever considered stepping up to help lead this great Post, now is the time. We have a few officers who have already stated they cannot serve another one-year term, so we need to find replacements. And almost all Post positions are up for election, so please think about it. We really have a lot of fun working together and it is so rewarding to see these efforts succeed.

Are you ready?

For God and Country, Jay

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

CERT is a training class for anyone interested in learning how to be a first responder, or even to gain more knowledge in how to better prepare yourself and loved ones in the event of an emergency or disaster. If you attended our meeting in January, you received information on the Community (or Citizen's) Emergency Response Team, or CERT. Ms. Patty Baxter works for the El Paso County Office of Emergency Management. I have locked in 3 Sunday's in April for the training. While the program is free, I still need pre-signup to ensure we have enough materials for all students. I received a few names at our February meeting and have some others, but if you are interested (and most of us should be), shoot a note to the Post or email legionnairejay@yahoo.com and sign up. We will meet on 3, 10, and 17 April from 1300 to 1800 each day.

As I stated last month, let's make April the month where we create a Post 209 CERT.

And let's pray we never have to use the skills we learn.



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT JACKIE BOWEN

Let's welcome our new members; Crystal Weller, Chryelle Wash, Carolyn Schubert, Donna Ribisi, and Solitaire Merrill. We would like to thank our District President, Linda O'Riley and Brenda Cortese for visiting with us. Let's keep our fingers crossed that Brenda will visit again and decide to join. Ladies, due to a misprint on the renewal forms some of our members have received two notices. If you have already renewed, please disregard these notices. If you are not sure that you have renewed, please contact Mary Grier at 536-0438 or email megrier@aol.com.

During the Mid-Year Conference we had several functions at our Post home. We received many accolades concerning our Post home and hospitality. I would like to thank the following ladies for their help: Lori Hardy, Lynn Thomas, Mavis Spath, Mary Grier, Lois Wooten, and Annie Peterson. Thanks to Art Kimbrel and Wayne Cropper for the outstanding dinners they supplied us.

In March we will be nominating officers for 2011/2012. If there is someone you would like to nominate to an office or if you would like to hold an office please be sure to attend our March and April meetings. The offices and a short explanation of the positions follows: President - to conduct meetings of the Unit and chair the Unit Executive committee; Vice-President - assist the President and in the absence of the President perform her duties; Secretary record all proceedings and maintain those recordings; Treasurer - receive all money belonging to the Unit and account for them; Chaplain - offer opening and closing prayers at the meetings; Historian - compiles historical records of the Unit and sends reports to Department; Sergeant-at-Arms – preserves order at the meetings of the Unit.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly, Jackie Bowen







AUXILIARY NOTES MARION D

With all the bad weather we've had of late, it was good to see the attendance for the February meeting.

Linda O'Reilly, District President announced on March 19th from 11:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. there will be a workshop held at our Post. It will include how to make a yearly volunteer report, how to fold pocket flags we give to deploying troops, and instructions on how to make helmet liners. RSVP by phoning 599-8624. A free lunch will be supplied by District 7.

Annie Peterson reported the Girls State Brochures have arrived. She explained the cost for a girl to go to Girls State is \$300. If a member would like to sponsor a girl, the member pays \$150 and the girl pays \$150. Members can donate any amount now if they wish to contribute funds for this program. You can make the donation using a credit card from our website, if desired. There is a place when donating to specify what, if any program you want your donation to be applied to, and you can insert "This donation is to be applied to Girl's State."

Mary Grier said we now have 99 members, which is over our yearly quota.

It was pointed out the Union Printers Home has veterans that could use lap robes. I will deliver the Preemie caps, lap robes, and I mailed two packages on Valentine's Day. Packages will go to Afghanistan and the Walter Reed Hospital. The ladies have worked very hard to make this a reality.

The Blue Star Mothers sent us a Thank You Note for the money we sent to help mail blankets to our troops. 100 blankets were sent out.

Please remember if you plan to attend any of the functions at the Post to phone in your RSVP. This helps with the cost of food and to ensure there is enough food prepared. It would be very embarrassing to run out and we have come awfully close to doing that on two recent occasions.

A little humor for you. What is the difference between Bird Flu and Swine Flu? For Bird Flu you need tweetment and for Swine flu you need oinkment.



Member 1 yr

Member 1 yr

Chuck Zeitvogel

Bill Marshall

719-531-0546

719-495-0088

Post Officers

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY







Office	Name	Telephone		Centennial Post 209 Calendar of Events	
Commander	Jay Bowen	719-574-1223			
Sr. Vice Cdr	Jerry Hodson	719-391-1411	3 Mar	Post Exec Meeting 6:30pm	
Jr. Vice Cdr	Chet Dean	719-638-8805	4 Mar	Hamdogger Wingding Dinner 6:30pm	
Adjutant	Larry Johnson	719-622-0344	12 Mar	Breakfast 9:00am Meetings 10:00am	
Finance Officer	Norman Moyer	719-392-3725			
Chaplain	Mario Taracena	719-495-0363	17 Mar	Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner 6:30pm \$8.00 per person	
Sergeant-at-Arms	Robert Rydell	719-634-4203			
Historian	Crystal Weller	719-481-8100	18 Mar	Steak Night 6:30pm \$10.00	
Post Executive Committeeman	Neal Thomas	719-392-1510	19 Mar	American Legion Birthday Celebration and dinner 6:00pm \$10.00 per person	
Service Officer	John Brown	719-331-8160	26 Mar	Family Night and a Movie	
Judge Advocate	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546	1 Apr	Hamdogger Wingding Night 6:30pm	
Past Commander	Bill Marshall	719-495-0088	7 Apr	Post Exec Meeting 6:30pm	
Post Email: americanlegionpost209@yahoo.com			9 Apr	Breakfast 9:00am Meeting at 10:00am Election of Officers	
Web Site: www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org			15 Apr	Steak Night 6:30pm \$10.00	
	Auxiliary Officers 2009-2010		•		
The state of the s			23 Apr	Easter Egg Hunt 1:00pm	
Office	Name	Telephone	30 Apr	Family Night	
President	Jackie Bowen	719-574-1223	6 May	Hamdogger Wingding Dinner 6:30pm	
Vice President	Annie Peterson	719-599-3818	7 May	Blossom Day Festival—Canon City	
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510	8 May	Mothers Day	
Treasurer	Mary Grier	719-536-0438	14 May	May Breakfast 9:00am Meeting 10:00am	
Chaplain	Marion Daugherty	719-637-9555	15 May	District 7 Convention 11:00am Canon City	
Sergeant-AT-Arms	Vacant		15 Iviay		
Board of Trustees 2009-2010		20 May	Steak Night		
)	21 May	Installation of Officers Banquet \$12.00	
Term (Years)	Name	Telephone	28 May	Family Night	
President	Neal Thomas	719-392-1510	30 May	Memorial Day Memorial Day Ceremonies at TREA 834 Emory circle	
Commander	Jay Bowen	719-574-1223			
Finance Officer	Norman Moyer	719-392-3725		Open house at Post 1 to 4pm	
Member 2 Yr	Larry Johnson	719-322-0644	23-26 Jun	Department Convention at Double Tree and the Post. Activities to be announced	
Member 2 Yr	Alton Cyriaque	719-495-4732			



From the SENIOR VICE CDR JERRY HODSON

Wow, we are setting the standard for all the other Posts in Colorado and we are the leader in District 7. I want to thank all of you for your help and support in gathering new members. Let us all keep up the good work and continue to gather new members. With that note in mind, don't forget to approach your veteran friends and tell them about our Post. If they are not already a member of the American Legion, ask them to become members with you at Post 209. Another way to gather new members would be to find out who they know that would want to join us as well.

Our Post website has the PayPal system allowing new members to pay for their membership and to make any donations by credit card, so show everyone you know our website (and you should visit the site also). (www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org).

The contest is in progress, so gather new members and be a winner! We are currently at 527 members! We hit an all time high in membership. The current leader as of 20 February is still Art Kimbrel; he is also the runner-up for the \$10 Wal-Mart card. This runner up position will be an easy win, so help out the Post and take the prize!

Butter Braids Fund Raiser



Each Butter Braid pastry is a hand-braided treat filled with your choice of 6 delicious flavors:

Dutch Almond Creme, Cherry, Apple, Blueberry Cream Cheese, Cinnamon or Cream Cheese. Made with 100% real butter and only the finest ingredients, your taste buds will surely thank you! The cost of these Butter Braids are \$ 10.00 per butter braid. They would be great with Easter dinner. If you would like to order, please email jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com to let us how many you would like and what flavor.

Butter Braid Sales: Beginning; March 28, 2011, Order turn in date; April 18, 2011, Delivery Date; April 21, 2011.

Centennial News Articles

For all officers of the Post, Committee Chair's and anyone who wants to submit newsletter articles, they are to be done in font of Times New Roman with a size of 12. All articles need to be turned in to the Adjutant by sending them to the Post at Am_Legion209@base.comcastbiz.net and d7adjutant@yahoo.com by the 15th of every month.



Hamdogger Wingding Nights

On the 1st Friday of each month we do the Hamdogger Wingding Night and every month we get a couple more members and guests coming down to enjoy an evening with friends and comradeship.

There have been some changes in the pricing of the Hamdogger Wingding evening.

Children (under the age of twelve) can get a free hotdog when a parent purchases a regular meal.

Hope to see you soon.

R. S. V. P.

How important is a R.S.V.P.? If you pay attention to Miss Manners of old, it is very important to let someone know that you will be attending whatever the event for which the invitation applies.

Do you know how important a R.S.V.P. is to the Post? In our case, it relates to dollars and waste of food. When we are planning an event and we don't know how many will be attending, we have the potential to cook too many breakfasts, steak dinners or food for a family night. What may happen is we plan for 40 and 20 shows up.

That means we end up throwing away food and that relates to lost dollars.

We are asking that when you read about an event or get a reminder about a function you want to attend, take a moment and make a reservation.

No matter how much planning we do, "YOU HOLD THE KEY" to our success. Please help us succeed and 'Repondez S'il Vous Plait!'



FROM THE CHEF De POST 209 ART KIMBREL

I am asking you to read the "THE CENTENNIAL" newsletter and look at the events that are happening. Make a note of them and make plans on attending and send an email to americanlegion209@yahoo.com to let us know how many will be in your party. If you can't email this information please call 719-599-8624 and leave a message.

Something to keep in mind, we want to be known as the kid friendly/family Post and that is one of the reason's why we do not want to have a liquor license except for special occasions. We invite you to bring the kids and enjoy some time with someone who has something in common with you.

NOTE: For the dinners. Children under the age of 12 who are eating off of your plate are free. For the Hamdogger, Wingding night children under the age of 12 will receive a free hotdog.



Veteran Legislation Status 13 FEB 2011:

For a listing of Congressional bills of interest to the veteran community introduced in the 112th Congress refer to the Bulletin's —House & Senate Veteran Legislation attachment. Support of these bills through co-sponsorship by other legislators is critical if they are ever going to move through the legislative process for a floor vote to become law. A good indication on that likelihood is the number of cosponsors who have signed onto the bill. Any number of members may cosponsor a bill in the House or Senate. At http://thomas.loc.gov you can review a copy of each bill's content, determine its current status, the committee it has been assigned to, and if your legislator is a sponsor or cosponsor of it. To determine what bills, amendments your representative has sponsored, cosponsored, or dropped sponsorship refer to http://thomas.loc.gov/bss/d111/ sponlst.html.



From Scouts and Service Officer John Brown

Service:

This article was taken from the January 2011 "Life after 50" ...

"As of Jan 1, 2011, most preventive care covered by Medicare is now free: no deductibles, no coinsurance. And Medicare is now covering a free annual physical exam, or what they're calling a "wellness visit."

These changes are good news for your wallet-and for your health. Here's why: Medicare has always done a pretty good job of covering you when you get sick. But it has not focused as much on keeping you well. That's because Medicare covered doctors' visits when you got sick, but did not pay for your doctor to take the time to assess your health and talk with you about staying healthy. This has changed.

If you have traditional Medicare, you're now entitled to a free annual wellness visit. If you have Medicare Advantage plan, your coverage is similar, but check with your plan for details. "

"Taken from an article from Ron Pollack, executive director for Families USA, a nonprofit advocacy organization based in Washington, D. C.





FROM THE FINANCE OFFICER NORM MOYER

I have served seven terms as Finance Officer/Trustee and due to increasing personal and family health problems, I will not seek or accept the nomination as Finance Officer during the April 2011 General Membership Election of new officers. POST 209 is soliciting interested individuals for consideration for this very important position.

Ideally, this officer should have an administrative interest---bookkeeping and/or accounting is highly desirable in managing the document accounts for Centennial Post 209. He/She reports to the Commander and closely coordinates numerous actions with the Adjutant and other Executive Committee and Trustees and the Club Activity Manager. The Finance Officer manages the accounting system, acts as administrative manager for all savings and checking accounts and ENT CU on-line banking; closely coordinates with the ENT CU Business Banking Manager and staff and with CPA (Certified Public Accountant) with audit accounts prior to submit to CPA fiscal tax reporting.

The Finance Officer will create and maintain financial statements and reports to monthly executive committee and General Membership, and manages inventory and state tax exempt, Emblem purchases & sales, meal collections and deposits.

As a state certified Games Manager, you are responsible for Raffle/Pull Tabs operations/security/deposits and Quarterly financial statement reporting.

Lastly, the Finance Officer coordinates with the Commander and Executive committeeman concerning annual budget, expenditures, Post Home Management expenses, and tax donation letters.



SCOUTING REPORT John Brown

March 2, 6:59am, at the Antlers Hotel is the Friends of Scouting breakfast and the Legion has several members attending. If interested, please contact JBiii@aol.com. That is me.

Pack 24, our chartered West side scouts are hard at work toward their goals for 2011. They have several boys who will be crossing over from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts this year. And there are new boys to take their place. The Pack continues to grow and provide the West Side boys a blue print to success. Their Blue and Gold dinner is February 23rd where they will celebrate the birthday of scouting.

Pack 386 committee met at the American Legion and is hard at work for their boys. They are planning the Blue and Gold banquet February 26th, which is the birth date for Scouting in America. Also, planning for the pine wood derby is well in hand. Thank you to two of our post members who have volunteered to help out. If anyone else wants to help either pack, let me know. They need judges, timers, crowd control (just kidding) and many other events. More news coming next month.

Pack 386 is supporting Ronald McDonald House of Southern Colorado by collecting Pop Tabs. So if you have any spare tabs at home please bring them to the Post Home and help Pack 386 provide help to the Ronald McDonald House in Colorado Springs.

American Legion Birthday

In March, The American Legion will turn 93 years old. For 93 years, The American Legion has been paving the way for Veterans Benefits, Veterans medical care, as well leading the way for the survivors and the children and youth of our communities.

To honor the Birthday of The American Legion, on Saturday, 19 March beginning at 6:00pm, the Post will host a 93rd Birthday Party.

I ask you to make reservations and remember to bring the family as it is a celebration for everyone.







Judge Advocate CHUCK ZEITVOGEL

AARP Tax-Aid Site EL PASO/TELLER COUNTY February 1 to April 15 2011

Seniors—If you are looking for tax help you can contact the AARP Tax-Aid's. Some of the places listed below are by appointment only and the telephone numbers are listed for each activity.

Active Duty Military — Do not forget that you can get Tax help on all of the Military from the Staff Judge Advocate's office or the Tax Help Centers.

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

Tri-Lakes Cares 235 Jefferson St, Monument 1:00 to 7:00 PM Appointments recommended 719-488-1317

Sunnyside Christian Church 2025 N Murray Blvd 9:30 to 3:00 PM

Colorado Springs Senior Center 1514 N Hancock Ave 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM Appointment Only 719-385-5933

Tri-Lakes Cares 235 Jefferson St, Monument 1:00 to 7:00 PM Appointment Recom-

mended 719-488-1317

Holy Apostles Church 4925 N Carefree Circle 10:AM to 4:00 PM

Silver Key Senior Service Center 2250 Bott Ave 8:30 to 11:30 AM

Fountain Valley Community Center 5725 Southmoor Drive Fountain 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

St Francis Health Center 825 E Pikes Peak Ave Bldg 29, 4th Floor

12:00 to 4:00 PM

Silver Key Senior Service Center

2250 Bott Ave 8:30 to 11:30 AM





Colorado Springs Senior Center 1514 N Hancock Ave 1:00 to 5:00 PM Appointment Only 719-385-5933







GIVE US A CALL

FROM YOU

RSVP SPECIAL

Make an advance reservation for the Steak night on 18 March and receive a special discount. With advance reservation, you get a steak at the regular price of \$10.00 and the second for a price of \$8.00. Please email vour reservation to americanlegionpost209@yahoo.com or call 719-599-8624. Let us know how many will be attending. Present the coupon below with your order.



Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA), Family Support Network (FSN) Make Huge Impact In 2010

Thousands of families have been helped through Family Support Network, while more than \$500,000 has been delivered through Temporary Financial Assistance grants.

The American Legion's support for U.S. service members goes well beyond lobbying for better quality of life and higher pay, as well as fair benefits once those men and women leave the military. Since the organization's inception, that support has been extended to the families of those serving in harm's way.

Two programs that are perfect examples of that support are Temporary Financial Assistance and the Family Support Network. TFA is funded through The American Legion Endowment Fund, which was established in the 1920s. Through TFA, a local post can request cash assistance to help maintain the basic needs of veterans' children. The fund helps families meet the costs of shelter, food, utilities and health expenses when parents are unable, thereby keeping the minor child or children in a more stable home environment.

FSN is a grass roots-based program that puts local Legion posts in touch with the families of activated or deployed service members, providing assistance and referrals to those families facing undue hardships with minor tasks such as grocery shopping, child care, mowing the grass or fixing the family car.

In 2010, TFA disbursed grants totaling more than \$515,000, benefiting 530 families with 1,408 children. In one instance, a husband and wife, both veterans, had exhausted their unemployment benefits. They applied for extensions, but the decision could have taken weeks. TFA assisted with keeping the rent current and purchasing groceries to ensure the well-being of the four minor children.

In another instance, a veteran returned from his third deployment to not only find out his civilian job was no longer in existence, but that his wife was leaving him and his two children. TFA assisted with the rent and utilities, while local Legionnaires are currently working with him to secure employment.

For more information about TFA eligibility, go to www.legion.org and search TFS or FSN. To donate to The American Legion Endowment Fund, mail checks or money orders, made out to The American Legion Endowment Fund, send to The American Legion Endowment Fund, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Meanwhile, the Family Support Network aided thousands of families of service members during 2010. Like many Legion programs, the real work of the Family Support Network is done at the post level, and many of the best FSN stories never even reach the eyes and ears of National Headquarters because many families in need know to contact their local Legion post first. Those posts have already laid the network's groundwork by establishing strong relationships with surrounding military families.

To contact the Family Support network, go to www.legion.org or call (800) 504-4098. Calls are referred to The American Legion Department in which the call originated. Departments relay the collected information to a local American Legion post, which then contacts the service member or family to see how assistance can be provided locally.

Call to Arms! Your Post Needs You!

The last weekend in June, we are hosting the Annual Department Convention. We need:

- Honor/Color Guard Volunteers
- Shuttle Drivers; with or without Vehicle
- Kitchen Assistance
- Event Coordination Support
- General Assistance

Contact us if you can help.





From the Adjutant Larry Johnson

In 1991, Post 209 had a membership high of 526 members. Over the ensuing years our membership maintained, waned, and then we started growing again.

For 20 years we grew a few members, and lost a few while still holding onto our core membership. Two years ago we had 365 members and today we have 529 members and because we have Legionnaires such as you to keep recruiting new members, there is no end in sight. I ask all of you to not stop your recruiting this year and in the years to come.

Often when I speak with prospective members and/or trying to get Legionnaires to renew, the question is "What does The American Legion do for me and what do they do for Veterans". I would hope that the article of page 8 speaks for what the Legion does for Veterans and Legionnaires. Something that most Legionnaires do not seem to keep in mind is that The American Legion was responsible for the passing of the GI Bill, which mandated that Veterans would receive treatment for their injuries and medical problems, it provided the opportunity for Veterans to reach the American Dream of owning their own homes, and assisted Veterans get an education. It also called for financial payments to Veterans and their families for injuries and other medical conditions. Additionally, the GI Bill was the start of forming what is know today as The Veterans Administration with a Secretary as part of the President's cabinet.

We "as members of The American Legion" are celebrating over 90 years of service to veterans, and their families, as well as service to the community, state and nation. The National Commander every year has to brief the Congress on our concerns that start with a resolution from you the "Blue Cap" workers of this organization. We employ lobbyists to keep our concerns in front members of Congress. Our National Commander is called upon by the President to get the opinion of the American Legion on matters of continued care to those who have served and to those who are currently serving and those who will follow in the future.

We have shown the Department that we are a Post who is serious about the programs of The American Legion and just as dedicated to the programs that we as a Post have chosen to support.

In January, we showed the Department that we would and could host a Department Mid-year Conference and what we did during those three days are the talk of the Department.

In February, we showed Department that membership within The American Legion is important to us by exceeding our All Time High.

What is in store for our Post in the future? In the upcoming months leading up to June when the Post is hosting the Department Convention we need to prepare for more than 300 people from all over the State of Colorado.

What we need to do is put together a group of Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL members to sell ad for the annual book. This is will make money for the Post and will help our community put their best step forward. We need to improve on our transportation system for the hotel to our Post and back again. We need to figure out what entertainment we would and what activities the Post can host and we need your help in making sure that the activities go the way that we want them to. We need help in preparing meals, busing tables and clean up afterwards. We need to get our Post ready for the visitors so that the impression of our Post and its members are one that is positive and one that everyone will remember. If you can help by providing a vehicle and driving that would be a great help. All we are asking is a few hours at a time over four days. Can you help in the preparation of food, cleaning up the tables, cleaning up after the activities are closed? Do you have the capability of being a DJ or Karaoke or other musical talent and willing to help us? Are you involved with Advertising, Marketing to help us sell ads for the Convention booklet, graphic design and computers in general?

We could use your help in many ways. If you have the time and energy to help us, we could use your help and expertise in the upcoming months. Give the Post a call at 719-599-8624 or send us an email at americanlegionpost209@yahoo.com and let us know how you can help.

THE AMERICAN LEGION CENTENNIAL POST 209 P.O. BOX 25334 COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80936-5334

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID COLORADO SPGS, CO PERMIT NO. 192

