

The Centennial



VOLUME 25 EDITION 5

MAY 2011

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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Jay Bowen

April has flown by and with it, many Post activities. We had elections and I have been honored to serve one more year as Commander of the finest Post in the Department. Thank you for placing your trust in me to not screw things up too badly for another year. I am also blessed with a great staff of Officers that will ensure I don't get too carried away. Many are names and faces you've seen from last year, but we do have a few new ones and I'm very excited at the thought of working with all of them. Our new Senior Vice Commander is Mark Krzeczowski, and our new Junior Vice is Lyle Hagelberg. Larry Johnson agreed to continue his role as Adjutant, and once again Norm Moyer will serve as Finance Officer. Neal Thomas will continue mentoring our Officers and serving the Post membership on the Executive Committee as our Post Executive Committeeman. Don Shuck will assume the role as Sergeant-at-Arms for the first time, and long-time member Gideon Diamon will serve this year as Historian. In the only contested position, Chet Dean will move over from Junior Vice Commander and serve as our Post Chaplain this year. With the new Executive Committee's approval, I'll appoint the Service Officer and Judge Advocate, per our Constitution and By-Laws. Chuck Zeitvogel and Bill Marshall were elected to serve in the two open positions on the Board of Trustees.

My sincere appreciation goes out to all who have served me and our Post honorably over the past year. And I am really looking forward to working with this new slate of Officers as they assume their roles immediately after our Department Convention in June.

Another exciting Post event in April was hosting our third National Commander since we've been in our new home. Commander Jimmie Foster visited on the



28th and shared lunch with us. He is a very interesting and dynamic person. We have been very fortunate to have Commander Foster representing our almost 3 million Legionnaires this past year.

As far as community and youth events, we hosted 23 members of our community (many of them members of our Post) who wanted to learn and get certified as Community Emergency Response Team members. This was a 16 hour training program broken out into three Sunday sessions conducted by members of the El Paso County Office of Emergency Management. We also hosted the Pinewood Derby for our cub scouts. We supported two JROTC programs with medals and certificates for deserving young men and women. And our Legion Baseball teams are going strong in what we call their warm-up league; Doherty HS Baseball. Once their season ends, our Legion season begins and most of the young men playing for Doherty will also be on one of our two squads. And speaking of squads, our Sons of the American Legion is growing. We will call a meeting very soon to get this group of men active and involved in all events of our growing Legion family.

As you can see we are not sitting still. We are moving full-steam ahead (that was for our Navy members). This is a lot of stuff for the few we have participating. I would love to see more of our 545 members get active in one or two events and help. This is really not work, it is fun and fulfilling. We are looking ahead at what we can do this June as we host the Department Convention. Of course, we will be somewhat limited if we don't get a few more volunteers to support these events. There is only so much the handful of regulars can do. We need the reserves to get activated so we can show our State that Post 209 is ready to step up. Please consider volunteering for at least one event during the 23-26 June Convention. Thanks in advance for your continued support.

For God and Country, Jay



Auxiliary President Jackie Bowen

Welcome to Kristi Drown one of our newest members. I so enjoy beginning my articles welcoming new members.

While on the subject of membership I will update you on the latest events. I believe we may have discussed this in an earlier newsletter but it was voted on and passed. Department has raised their dues for 2012 membership. National will vote in August to raise their dues. The trickle-down effect has given us cause to raise our dues. We voted at our April meeting to raise our dues from \$20 to \$25 per year. This averages out to be less than \$0.07 cents a day. We bumped it \$5 in hopes of covering the \$2 raise for Department and the amount National will raise their dues. I know the first question some of you may have is, "What if I have already paid for 2012?" Some of you have because of the double renewal forms that went out. If you had paid your 2012 dues before April 9, 2011 then you are considered paid in full.

Your Unit officers for 2011-2012 are: President-Jackie Bowen, Vice President-Annie Peterson, Secretary-Lynn Thomas, Treasurer-Mary Grier, and Chaplain-Marion Daugherty. If the names look familiar, they should. We are the same ladies holding the office now and may I say I am privileged to have these Ladies serve with me. There are still two open offices and they are Sgt-At-Arms and Historian. If you would like to volunteer for either of these positions just let me or any other Unit Officer know.

Our appreciation goes to everyone that has helped in any way making Girls State a success again this year. Also for making our latest Butter Braids sale a success.

At least once a year the Blue Star Mothers, Mothers with sons or daughters currently serving in the Military, sponsor a weekend for the Gold Star Mothers. The Gold Star Mothers are Mothers that have lost a son or daughter while protecting our freedoms. Our Unit will be donating again this year to this honorable event. One of our very own is a member of the Gold Star Mothers and I would like to give a special "Thank You" to her for the huge sacrifice she endures everyday.

We will be holding another pocket flag folding soon.

I need to get with our club manager and decide on a date. I will let you know as soon as possible when that will be.

On that note I want to share a story with you. One of our Legionnaires, John, has just been deployed and I didn't get a pocket flag to him before he left. That has been rectified for him and his teammates. Another of our Legionnaires, Mark, had received a pocket flag on his deployment. Mark passed his flag on to John. While John was promising Mark he would take good care of it and give it back to him upon his return, Mark said, "give it to the next soldier." This my dear ladies and gentlemen is what "family" is all about and this is what the Legion and Auxiliary are all about, **Veterans Helping Veterans! We are family!**

Serving Our Veterans Proudly, Jackie



Thoughts From Marion

I am taking time today to keep away from the multitude of boxes around me to write a short note. Yes, I have moved. That is why I missed the last Auxiliary meeting. It was a long hard day but it went very well overall. I have had appointments this past week so I have not been able to get to the unpacking in earnest. I will soon have this done and be back to the post for the activities that are offered.

Easter just passed and as usual it invoked some deep thoughts and memories for me. It is a very special time of year. As a youngster I recall going to church in my new Easter outfit. We always had Easter eggs and as we got older we were able to help my Mother with the decorating process. I had no problem accepting the facts about Santa. The Easter Bunny was a real let down. We always got a good size Easter Basket with many different goodies in it. For me that was a traumatic shock when it came to an end. The more serious meaning of Easter is realizing what our Savior did for us, not only during the Lenten season but each day of our lives. Like Christmas, Easter has become more commercialized. I pray that the true meaning of Easter will remain with us as we meet the many challenges of today's world. Let us all count our many blessings we receive daily and give thanks for each one of them.

I pray the Lord granted a special blessing to each of you this Easter Season.



Post Officers

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Jay Bowen	719-574-1223
Sr. Vice Cdr	Jerry Hodson	719-391-1411
Jr. Vice Cdr	Chet Dean	719-638-8805
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	Crystal Weller	719-481-8100
Post Executive Committeeman	Neal Thomas	719-392-1510
Service Officer	John Brown	719-331-8160
Judge Advocate	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Past Commander	Bill Marshall	719-495-0088

Post Email: americanlegionpost209@yahoo.com

Web Site: www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org



Auxiliary Officers 2009-2010

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Jackie Bowen	719-574-1223
Vice President	Annie Peterson	719-599-3818
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Mary Grier	719-536-0438
Chaplain	Marion Daugherty	719-637-9555
Sergeant-AT-Arms	Vacant	



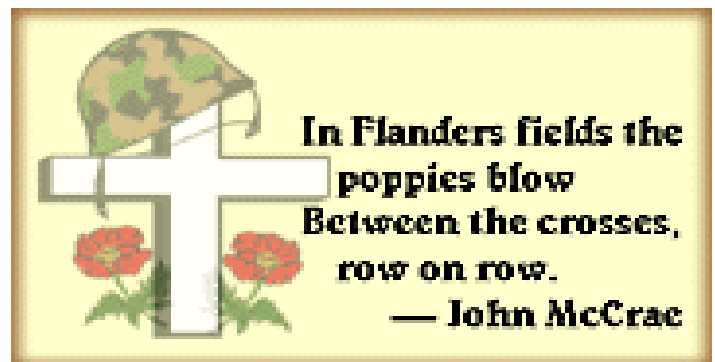
Board of Trustees 2009-2010

Term (Years)	Name	Telephone
President	Neal Thomas	719-392-1510
Commander	Jay Bowen	719-574-1223
Finance Officer	Norman Moyer	719-392-3725
Member 2 Yr	Larry Johnson	719-322-0644
Member 2 Yr	Alton Cyriaque	719-495-4732
Member 1 yr	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Member 1 yr	Bill Marshall	719-495-0088



Centennial Post 209 Calendar of Events

- 28 Apr National Commander Visitation— Luncheon starts at 12:00pm. Reservations required! RSVP at the Post
- 5 May Post Executive Committee Mtg 6:30pm
- 6 May Hamdogger Wingding Dinner 6:30pm
- 7 May Blossom Day Festival—Canon City
- 8 May Mothers Day
- 14 May Breakfast 9:00am
Monthly Meeting 10:00am
SAL Monthly Meeting
Convention Volunteer Meeting
- 15 May District 7 Annual Convention 11:00am
Canon City; free lunch provided
- 20 May Steak Night 6:00pm
- 21 May Installation of Officers; Banquet \$12.00
- 30 May Memorial Day
Memorial Day Ceremonies at TREA 834 Emory Circle
- 2 Jun Post Executive Committee Mtg 6:30pm
- 3 Jun Hamdogger Wingding Night 6:30pm
- 11 Jun Breakfast 9:00am
Monthly Meeting(s) 10:00am
- 12 Jun Flag Disposal Ceremony 2:00pm
- 14 Jun Army Birthday Celebration 6:30pm
- 17 Jun Steak Night (Surprise) 6:30pm
- 23-26 Jun Department Convention at Double Tree and the Post. Activities to be announced
- 1 Jul Hamdogger Wingding Dinner 6:30pm
- 4 Jul Post Picnic 10:00am till ?????
- 7 Jul Post Executive Committee Mtg 6:30pm
- 9 Jul Breakfast 9:00am
Meeting 10:00am
- 15 Jul Steak Night





**From the Senior Vice Commander
Jerry Hodson**

The contest has come and gone and the winner of the Contest is Art Kimbrel with total of 4 new members since January.

We have about 160 members who have not renewed their membership for 2011. On Saturday, 7 May, at 9:00am, our Adjutant will host a meeting of Legionnaires who are interested in furthering the membership of the Post and are willing to contact 2 or 3 Legionnaires to get them to renew for 2011.

Our Post website is using PayPal to allow members to pay for membership (new and renewals) and to make donations by credit card, so help us advertise our website (you should visit the site also).

Military Services Birthday Dinners!



Last year for the Military Services Birthday Dinners we did a Spaghetti dinner.

This year the Post is offering a choice of Turkey or Roast Beef, mashed potato, veggies, salad and dessert. The cost is \$10.00 per person.

Children under the age of 12 eating off your plate can eat for free.

Please make plans to attend, make a reservation and enjoy the evening with someone to which you have something in common. Remember, you don't have to belong to that branch to have fun and celebrate.

UMBRELLA SALES

The Auxiliary is selling umbrellas for a fundraiser. They are \$15 each. Features include:

Drip Free system to prevent water from getting on the floors and carpets.

Clear panel for easy visibility.

Proceeds will be used to assist local area Veterans and Auxiliary programs.



Communications

Communications is very important when trying to share information and updates to members of the American Legion Family.

For the past year, we have been trying to find a way to effectively get information to you. We have tried sending information by using YAHOO and it would take a week to send out information like the newsletter and other things because YAHOO's programming would think we are spamming and would shut down the capability of sending information to a large group of people.

We believe we have found the solution to sending out email blasts to everyone. Some of you have been getting emails from post0209adj@colegionmail.org. This is a valid email address and will be used occasionally to get blast messages to our members. Please check your spam filters and allow these emails to come to you.

If you move or change your email please let us know as it will help save money and will ensure that you receive your newsletters and notifications.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you willing to donate a few hours of your time during the 23 to 26 June Department of Colorado State Convention?

The Post needs your help to support the many activities and events planned for The Department Convention. Listed below are some of the areas in which we need help. If you can give us a day, an hour, or anything in between, Larry Johnson is calling a meeting for Volunteers after the General Membership meeting on 14 May 2011. I hope to see you then.

- Honor/Color Guard Volunteers
- Shuttle Drivers; with or without Vehicle
- Kitchen Assistance
- Event Coordination Support
- General Assistance
- Help selling convention ads
- Help with selling meal tickets at the convention

Contact us if can help!



**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. If you can make it to one or several events, send an email to americanlegionpost209@yahoo.com to let us know how many will be in your party. If you don't have email, RSVP at 719-599-8624.

Something to keep in mind, we want to be known as the kid friendly/family Post and that is one of the reason's 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.



**From Scouts and Service Officer
John Brown**

Scouts: Pinewood Derby is done and summer vacation is near. Both Packs 24 and 386 have completed their Pinewood Derby's and the winners are on their way to District completion. The District event will be 16 April at 10:00am at Pikes Peak Christian School. We hope one of the Packs will bring the large trophy back to the Post home. I would like to thank one of our members, Paul Brown, for donating the derby awards for Pack 24. Thanks Paul.

Both Packs have scheduled a full summer of events for the boys, from hiking, camping, day camp and visiting local tourist locations. Let's wish them a safe summer and a fun filled one also.



**From Scouts and Service Officer
John Brown**

Service: Did Your Withholding Go Up?

Did you notice a change in your retirement check lately? I did and my wife asked me why so here is what I found out.

"It's because the two-year Making Work Pay (MWP) tax-relief program enacted in 2009 expired at the end of 2010. The MWP cut tax withholding rates from checks in 2009 and 2010. The program wasn't extended to 2011, so the tax tables reverted to the higher levels.

The MWP program was designed to act as a special stimulus payment to help kick start the country out of recession by putting some extra money in citizens' hands right away. Technically, the MWP provision was intended only to apply to qualifying taxpayers still earning wages. However, because the Defense Finance and Accounting Service uses the same tax tables and pay systems for retired pay as it does for active duty pay, the system didn't discriminate between retired pay and wages.

This doesn't mean you owe more or are paying higher taxes – it's just DFAS has returned to withholding the pre-stimulus amount for each deposit. If this results in too much money being withheld, you will receive any overpaid amount via a tax refund." In other words you are loaning the money to the government and hope to get some back when you file your taxes next year. (My comments) *Taken from the Military Officer April 2011*

ANNUAL PICNIC!

Save the date of Monday, 4 July as the day for the Post's annual picnic. We will start around 10:00am and will go until everyone departs.

We ask that everyone bring their favorite dish to share and your choice of meat that the Post will cook for you. We will provide the condiments and refreshments. We are looking for someone to run the games for the kids.

Hope to see you there!!!



**From the Chaplain
Mario Taracena**

ARMED FORCES DAY is celebrated in many countries in appreciation and honor of their military. This month America will be recognizing our men and women in uniform for their patriotism with parades, special events, air shows, etc. on Saturday, May 21st. This year a new poster has been designed for the event: UNITY IN STRENGTH. This beautiful poster will be displaying the seals of all Service branches on a background of military actions. Also, the US flag will be shown flying proudly. The emphasis of this poster is “our troops and those supporting them back home are united in strength.” Watch for the calendar of events for the activities of the day and enjoy participating. Shake a Soldier’s hand and tell him or her how much they are appreciated.

MEMORIAL DAY this year will be on Monday, May 30th. This is a special day of remembrance for those Veterans who have passed away. For all of us it’s significant because we honor and venerate those who have died in service of our Nation. On this day, as you visit a grave or memorial site, remember with respect the freedom you enjoy and be grateful.

WWII V-E DAY: 8 May, 1945. The allies announced the surrender of Germany and celebrated our Victory in Europe!



For many years the American Legion has led the fight against flag desecration. The American Legion for decades has a ceremony for the dignified disposal of American flags, which has provided service to our homes, businesses and to our nation.

The Post is planning to host a Flag Disposal Ceremony on Sunday, 12 June beginning at 2:00pm.

Please make plans on attending.

Department Convention Golf Tournament!

As the host Post for the Convention, we have the honor and responsibility to host the traditional Golf Tournament on the Convention’s 1st day.

If you are a golfer or a duffer like most of us, please consider playing in this event. Also, we need your help to get prizes, money, trophies, etc. donated for this tournament.

All proceeds go to our Post, but the more we can acquire through donations, the more we can keep. Let us know if you can help.

Fund Raising

The new American Legion Fiscal Year for 2012 will begin in July of this year.

Do you have an idea that would work to help raise money for the programs and activities of the Post? If so, we could use your ideas.

Ideally, as the Commander has indicated in the Past, that your idea also includes yourself to get the fund raising project underway.

If you have an idea please feel free to contact the Commander or send it to the Post at americanlegionpost209@yahoo.com

RSVP SPECIAL

Make an advance reservation for the Steak night on 20 May 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 or phone your reservation to the Post. Let us know how many will be attending. Present the coupon below with your order.

**STEAK NIGHT
COUPON**

Buy 1 dinner at Regular Price, get the 2nd One at \$ 2.00 off.

Good only during the month of MAY and with a reservation made in advance



From the Adjutant Larry Johnson

Something new for the upcoming year. When National sends out their membership renewal notices in July there will be a NEW ADDITION, they will be including a block which says that National will now offer you the option of renewing your membership on-line through National. From what I understand, you will be able to print a facsimile of your 2012 membership card which you will in turn have to bring the printed card to the Post in order to get your card from the Post.

While this will be very simple and easy for you, it will cause a nightmare for the Post. The reason I say this is because when you renew through National, National will take their per-capita payment and once a month compile a list of Legionnaires who have renewed. They will then send Department's and the Post's per capita to the Department who is in turn supposed to send the Post's per capita. The nightmare begins because the Post must operate on the per capita that is received when you renew your dues. The process that I just described could take up to two to three months to accomplish and cause an accounting nightmare.

I am asking all Legionnaires to please renew your membership with the Post by sending a check or money order made out to American Legion Post 209 for \$35.00 and mail it to the Post or renew through the Post's webpage utilizing the Pay Pal system we have established.

In July, the commander will once again be asking you to volunteer to serve on one of the committees that are described on the Post's webpage. These committees have the responsibility to help operate the Post and provide services to community and Veterans that need the help provided by the Post.

A goal that I would like all Legionnaires to participate in is to help us reach whatever membership goal Department sets for our Post and the District for 2012 by December 2011. This accomplishment would be two months earlier than we did this year and will show the Department of Colorado that we are a Post that is able to compete and win on all levels of The American Legion. Hope you agree.

Flag Desecration Update 01:

Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO-08) has introduced H.J. Res. 13 an amendment to the Constitution allowing Congress to pass legislation to prohibit desecration of the flag of the United States. Many brave men and women who serve and have served in the Armed Services feel deeply about the honor and dignity of "Old Glory," and the physical desecration of this symbol of democracy and freedom is an affront to them and the memory of those who died in the service of this Nation. Readers who would like to support this amendment are encouraged to contact their legislators and request they support this resolution. One way to do this is to use the FRA action center at <http://www.capwiz.com/fra/issues/alert/?alertid=22343541> to ask your US representative to co-sponsor this constitutional amendment that would grant Congress the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the U.S. flag. [Source: FRA Action alert 5 Apr 2011 ++]



Son's of The American Legion Squadron 209

A meeting of the Squadron was scheduled for 13 April. I would like to thank Donald Shuck for coming to the scheduled meeting.

It was a disappointment that no one else came to the meeting.

There will be another attempt to schedule a Squadron Meeting in order to provide information and hopefully elect officers to get the Squadron on it's feet and operating.

The next scheduled attempt will be Saturday, 14 May 2011. Breakfast will be at 9:00am and the meeting of the Squadron will begin at 1:00pm.

