

CENTENNIAL 209 NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 24 EDITION 1 January 2010
Mail: P.O. Box 25334, Colorado Springs, Co 80936-5334
Home: 3613 Jeannine Dr., Colorado Springs, Co 80917-8002,
Telephone 719-599-8624
Email: AmLegion209@base.comcastbiz.net
Web site www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org



Commander's Comments Philip Larsen

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! It has been an exciting and eventful year for Centennial Post 209 and its members. Our new Post Home has opened so many ways in which Post 209 can make a positive impact within the Colorado Springs military retiree community, as well as the military communities in the Colorado Spring's area. For 2010, Post 209 will become even more important to the Colorado Department of the American Legion, the American Legion District 7 region and become more involved with community affairs with the other American Legion Posts in Colorado Springs. It is the time to join with the other Posts to make a real difference in supporting the Veterans, as well as the active duty military members whose numbers are increasing at all bases and posts in the region.

For all Centennial post 209 members who still believe that by paying their yearly dues is adequate for supporting the Post's efforts in becoming more influential in community relations, I invite you to the next General Membership meeting in January and find out how Post 209 has grown in membership and how you can get out of your comfort zones to become part of the veterans solution, rather than ignore our responsibilities in helping our fellowman or veterans. One success story, just completed, was the effort of American Legion Centennial Post 209 to attempt to provide acknowledged adversely impacted families of the Fort Carson 1-22 IN Battalion for the Christmas holidays. Once the unit identified that 35 families would have a problem celebrating the upcoming holidays without Christmas dinners to make this season a joyous experience for themselves as well as their children, the Post's Executive Committee voted to support an Adopt-A-Battalion food drive to make



President's Column

Happy New Year! What a wonderful year we had and I am looking forward to 2010 being just as good, if not better. For those of you that couldn't make the Christmas party, you missed a great time. Santa came and passed out gifts for the kids that were there and they enjoyed Santa's visit very much. If you would like to see some of the pictures from the party just visit our website www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org.

The mid-year conference is January 29 through January 31 at the Radisson in Denver. The address is 3333 Quebec Street, (303) 321-3500. I hope to see a lot of you there. I realize not everyone can make it but we do have a good time visiting with members from all of Colorado. It may be too late to get the special rate but if you call for reservations make sure to let them know you are with the American Legion Conference.

We will be selecting our "Secret Sister" for 2010 at our January meeting. If you would like to participate make sure you are at the meeting or let Marion Daugherty know if you can't make it.

The 1st Bn. / 22nd Artillery unit had 35 families in need for Christmas. Our Unit and Post members gathered donations and we fed these wonderful families and even had toys donated for their kids. We had a few requests for other families needs and were able to fulfill them as well. The only way this was able to come about was with the generous donations from ALL our Legion and Auxiliary family. Thank you so much for stepping up.



Commander's Comments
Philip Larsen (continued)

Christmas a holiday to remember for these families, as well as a few Post identified families.

Members of the Post collected food donations as well as monetary donations to support the needy for Christmas. The Wildwood Casino in Cripple Creek donated 38 turkeys, Sam's Club stored our turkeys free for nearly a month, donations were made by members of the Post, Wal-Mart on Powers provided a \$50 instant donation toward the purchase of food items for the food boxes, the unit from Fort Carson provided six members to show up at the Post to assemble the food boxes and drive to Sam's Club to pick up the turkeys and milk to top off the food boxes prior to delivery to Fort Carson on December 15, 2009. What a great Post effort and I'm already receiving grateful email and voice mail from the families receiving the food boxes. We also assembled promised food boxes for those families identified by our Post members.

This past year has just impressed me with the generosity and selflessness that members of this Post possess! I have never been so proud to be involved with a veteran's organization. Let's keep moving forward.

For God and Country
Phil Larsen

Success of The American Legion Family

Have you ever wondered what it takes a make successful American Legion Post, Auxiliary Unit or Son's of The American Legion Squadron.

It takes active participation of the members and trust in the officers that are elected to guide the Post from year to year.

It takes effective programs managed by members to work and provide guidance based upon your particular knowledge and skills.

It takes times and coordination to get everything done.

It takes planning, not doing things on a spur of a moment.

In other words, it takes you and if possible your family to become involved within the activities of Legion and participation in the programs and events as planned and published.



President's Column
Jackie Bowen

Lastly, thank all of you for making the sale of the Butter Braids a success. We will be selling them again in the future and I will let everyone know the exact dates when the decision is made.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly,
Jackie Bowen

Veterans Administrative Inspector General

The Veterans Administration Inspector General (VAIG) will be visiting the Denver VAMC from 25 to 29 January 2010.

This is part of the Combined Assessment Program (CAP). The team will be evaluating patient care, fraud, waste, and abuse and some other issues, however, the VAIG does not generally get involved with issues concerning VA benefits, appeals, homes loan's etc..

If you would like to talk to the VAIG you can call 1-800-488-8244 Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., by writing to VAIG, P.O. Box 50410, Washington, D.C. 20091-0410, or by fax at 202-565-7936 or you can email them at vaoighotline@va.gov.

VA Benefits - Burial, CHAMPVA, death pension, Dependency Indemnity Compensation, Direct Deposit, Disability compensation, Education, Home Loan, VOC-REHAB call 1-800-827-1000
Education (GI BILL) 7-888-442-4551
Income Verification and Means Testing 1-800-929-8387
Mammography Helpline: 1-888-492-7844
Life Insurance 1-800-669-8477
Special Issues, Gulf War/Agent Orange/Project Shad/Mustard Agents and Lewisite/Ionizing Radiation 1-800-749-8387
Status of Headstones and Markers 1-800-697-6947
Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) 1-800-829-4833





Senior Vice Notes Jay Bowen

By the time you see this newsletter we will have celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus, and rung in the New Year. For Centennial Post 209, we will remember 2009 as a year of many achievements, successes and sadly some losses as well.

I will start with the losses. While I know our Post lost far too many loyal members over the past year, there were two that touched me deeply. Former Post Commander W.W. Bandler, and former Post Chaplain Art Criswell. Both served during World War II and were very active in all Post activities right up to their last breath. They were an inspiration to me on how to live and how to accept our mortality. I miss them both very deeply, but feel privileged to have known them.

We moved into our new Post home in 2009. This was the culmination of years of planning, waiting and watching. We spent a lot of money, time, sweat and hours to turn a Knights of Columbus building into a premier Post Home that is the jewel of the Department of Colorado. It is a home all of us should be extremely proud to share in the ownership. If you haven't been out to see it, I would encourage you to make it a New Year's resolution to do so.

The year was sprinkled with community and Veteran support by our Post. To name just a couple: we supported the COP Keating project, when our US Army soldiers lost all their possessions when their base was overran; and we provided Christmas dinners to several Army soldiers and Veterans that otherwise could not have afforded to do so on their own.

Lastly, I have to say something about membership or I would be driven out of the Senior Vice Commander club (just kidding, we don't have a club, but hmmmm). I am extremely proud to report that at the end of 2009, we were already more than 113% of our membership goal for 2010, and less than 100 from our Post's all-time high goal. Let's make it a Post New Year's resolution to make 2010 the year of an all-time high on membership.

I am excited about this New Year and what it will bring to our Post. Thanks for your continued support.



Chaplain Mario Taracena

NEWS FROM POST MEMBERS

ROBERT RYDEL: Our Sgt-at-Arms underwent oral surgery earlier in December. He is doing very well and is expected to be 100% in a short period of time.

HERMAN AND ILSE HOGGEN MILLER: Herman had surgery last November to correct some health issues. He is doing well but still undergoing physical therapy. Ilse will have surgery in January. We pray their well being and successful operation.

MARY GRIER: Wife of John Grier is scheduled for surgery on January 21. We will keep you posted of her progress. Your prayer would be greatly appreciated.

Earnest Kelly Jr. passed peacefully away on November 21st. He served he country during the Korean War. May he rest in peace.

BETTY PLENGE: left his earth on December 6 and is now in Heaven. She was the wife of David Plenge.



American Legion Birthday
Saturday, 6 March 2010

Centennial Post 209 will Celebrate the Legion birthday on Saturday, 6 March 2010 dinner and dance. The meal has not been decided as of the printing of this newsletter.

The cost of dinner will be \$10.00 per person and the entertainment will be \$ 5.00 per person.

As always we would like everyone to make reservations by calling the Post at 719-599-8624 or sending an email to AmLegion209@base.comcastbiz.net

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

31 Dec	New Year's Eve
1 Jan 2010	New Year's Day
2 Jan	Post Home is Rented
5 Jan	Finance Meeting 7:00 P.M.
7 Jan	Post Executive Meeting 6:30 P.M.
9 Jan	BREAKFAST 9:00 A.M. GENERAL MEETING 10:00 A.M.
15 Jan	News Letter Articles Due
18 Jan	Martin Luther King Birthday
29-31 Jan	Department Mid-Year Denver
4 Feb	Post Executive Committee Meeting 6:30
12 Feb	Valentines Dinner and Dance 5:30 So- cial Hour, 6:30 P.M. Dinner served and entertainment to follow

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

13 Feb	BREAKFAST 9:00 A.M. GENERAL MEETING 10:00 A.M.
15 Feb	News Letter Article Due
4 Mar	Post Executive Committee Meeting 6:30
6 Mar	Legion Birthday Party and Dance
13 Mar	BREAKFAST 9:00 A.M. GENERAL MEETING 10:00 A.M.
15 Mar	News Letter Article Due
17 Mar	St Patrick's Day Corn Beef and Cabbage
27 Mar	Proposed New Officers Training 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
31 Mar	Post Executive Committee Meeting 6:30
3 Apr	Easter Egg Hunt 2:00 P.M. for children 10 and younger
10 Apr	BREAKFAST 9:00 A.M. GENERAL MEETING 10:00 A.M.
15 Apr	News Letter Article Due
17 Apr	Post Spring Cleaning

Monthly Breakfast/Meetings

Our General Membership Meetings are 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

Norm's Video has purchased 100 calendars with information on Centennial Post 209 and donated these calendars to the Post.

While the calendars are free, I m asking for a donation to support some of the American Legion Program's such as; The Oratorical contest, Boys State, Boys Scouts, Veterans Assistance and the many other program of The American Legion. Any donation will help.

The calendars will be available at the first General Membership meeting of the new year on 9 January. Just see me, when you come to the breakfast.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Joyous Holiday Season and hope that you all have your dreams come true.



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 to The American Legion Children Welfare Foundation and activities 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, followed by an organizational meeting aimed at getting the Squadron going.

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



The calendar year of 2009 has certainly been a very busy year with a lot of events and activities that have happened.

When the Post held its first meeting in the new Post home we started a new era in the history of the Post. Although, some members of the Post had been hoping and dreaming of the day when we had a Post home. No one truly realized what that would mean.

We held our first meeting in the new home in February, in April we hosted the dedication of the Post. In May we held our Installation of Officers. The Post has hosted a District Convention, A Department training session for Adjutants and Service Officers which was a huge success. We participated with RED, White and Blue parade by handing out some 250 burritos to marching members of the parade. We participated in the Memorial and Veterans Day parade ceremonies and parade.

The Post and along with members of other Veteran Organizations, family members and the community hosted the Burn Pit activities replacing personal items from the 3rd Battalion 61st Calvary at Fort Carson along with families members and members of the community.

As the Commanders and Presidents article in this newsletter indicated, The Post helped 35 military families from the 1st Battalion 22nd Infantry, but we also were asked by Honey Baked Hams to help identify other military families that might need some aid and The Post helped identify another 30 families that were helped.

All of these activities required participation by members of the Post and Auxiliary. The problem was/is that the same members are involved with the activities all of the time. As you read this please beware that we really need some more help with Programs and activities as well as some self help type problems within the Post.

The thing with Veterans Organization, we have carpenters, electricians, plumbers painters, someone good with woodworking, cooking, cleanup anyone who has time to help with projects and activities.

Please come to the meeting in January and let us know that you can help.



Valentine Dinner and Dance
Friday, 12 Feb 2010

Legionnaires, we all know that on Valentines Weekend we do things for our opposite number.

We have the ultimate function for accomplishing your Valentine celebration.

Friday evening beginning at 5:30 P.M. with a social period followed by a Valentine dinner and dance. Dinner menu will consist of a petite steak, baked potato, vegetables, salad, dinner rolls, and a desert.

The cost for the dinner and dance is \$ 15.00 per person. \$ 10.00 will be for the dinner and \$ 5.00 for entertainment.

I can't think of a better way to start the most romantic weekend of the year.

Reservations can be made by calling the Post at 599-8624 or email at AmLeion209@base.comcastbiz.net. And letting us know how many will be in your party.



St Patrick's Day—17 March
Corn beef and Cabbage Dinner

All Irishmen and women either by birth or Irish men and women for a day— come on down to the Post and enjoy a meal of corn beef and cabbage beginning at 5:30 p.m. with a little attitude adjustment for the evening with the dinner to follow at 6:30 p.m.. The cost for the meal will be \$ 10.00 per person. Come on down and be Irish for a day.



Cub Pack 24 News
John Brown

The Cub scouts would like to express their gratitude to the Post during their annual sale of Popcorn by saying "thank-you" to the Post members who purchased this years Popcorn.

As you know, the Popcorn sales are the Boy Scouts major fund raising project for the year, and it funds their many projects and outings..



Adjutant's Words Larry L Johnson

I hope that all of The American Legion Family had a wonderful Christmas Holiday. I hope that all of your dreams and expectations were exceeded for the holiday season.

In regards to our membership, although we have reached goal we still have 290 members who have not renewed for the year 2010.

1 January 2010, National will mail out renewals notices to all who have not renewed by 1 November 2009. Please remember that it takes about two months from the time you send your membership renewal to the Post and it finally gets processed by National. If you should receive a renewal notice, please, check to see if you have your 2010 membership card and if you do, please through the renewal notice away, if you don't have your 2010 membership, will you take a moment and send your membership to The American Legion Post 209, P.O. box 25334, Colorado Spgs, Co 80936-5334. As a reminder our annual dues are \$ 35.00 a year.

We are currently at 427 Legionnaires for 2010 and our all time high was 525 Legionnaires back in 1990.

The American Legion has a Accidental and dismemberment Insurance policy for \$1,000.00 that is free to all Legionnaires. The only things that you must do to get this policy to sign a document designating your beneficiary and have your membership processed by 31 December of every year.

The applications are available at the Post home and can be picked up on the 2nd Saturday of every month at the meetings.

The Insurance company will send you information on other insurances that are available through the same Insurance company for you to review and/or request further information.

If you are receiving this newsletter by mail and you would like to help the Post save some money, please email the Post at AmLeion209@base.comcastbiz.net providing your name and email. As I stated last month at the end of January according to National's constitution and By-Laws if you have renewed your membership by Jan 31 you are delinquent and I will remove you from the mailing list until you have renewed.

Bills of Interest to you Representatives

H.R.333: Disabled Veterans Termination Act: to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation, to eliminate the phase-in period for noncurrent receipt, to extend eligibility for concurrent receipt to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service, and for other purposes. Sponsor Rep Marshall Jim [GA]. Co-sponsors 120: [To support this bill and/or contact your legislature send a message via http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert?alertid=12406456&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert?alertid=12406456&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id]) and <http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/&alertid=12888756>

Senate

S.1518: Caring for Camp Lajeune Veterans Act of 2009: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish hospital care, medical services and nursing home care who were stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, while water was contaminated at Camp Lejeune. You should check Marine home-page for more information

Why People Like Retirement

Number of days in a week: **6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday**

Bedtime: **Three hours after falling asleep on the couch.**

Biggest Gripe: **There is not enough time to get everything done.**

Benefit of being called a senior: **The term comes with a 10% discount.**

What is considered formal attire: **Tied Shoes.**

Why do retirees count pennies: **They are the only ones who have the time**

Common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire. **NUTS**

What retirees call a long lunch: **Normal**

Best way to describe retirement: **The Never ending Coffee Break**

Biggest advantage of going back to school: **If you cut classes, no one call your parents**

What do retirees do all week: **Monday through Friday, NOTHING, Saturday and Sunday, they rest.**

Reason retirees are so slow to clean the basement, attic, garage: **They know that as soon as they do. One of their kids will want to store stuff there.**