

The Centennial



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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Jay Bowen

As has been my Christmas tradition for more years than I care to try and count, I watched "It's A Wonderful Life" during the Christmas season. I've probably seen that movie more than any other and never tire of the acting, the story and the message it brings.

Wouldn't it be great to get a peek at what the world would be like if we had never been born? Or would it? Seeing the little world of George Bailey (Jimmy Stewart's character) and how it changed so dramatically almost drove him crazy. Even the name of the town was different. His younger brother died, the town miser ruled without challenge, his wife was a spinster, and close friends went to prison, became drunks, and/or went crazy. Obviously he had a positive impact on many lives, something he had taken for granted.

We can only imagine what life would be like in our own world had we never trod the earth. Only you can recount the potential impact you've had on others; who impacted others, who impacted others. The little kindnesses you've shown to those you met or friended very possibly resulted in them "Paying it Foward" (another good movie). We will never know for certain if one of our interactions eventually saved a person, many people, a community, or the world. But it is very interesting to reflect upon.

We may never save the men and women on a battleship by shooting down a Kamikaze before he crashes into the ship, but know this; your interactions, decisions, and the actions you take will have an impact. Will it be positive? We'll



probably never know. But we should live every-day thinking about it. There should be a little voice in the back of our mind constantly reminding us that what we are about to say or do will impact someone, which will create a change.

I am constantly amazed and dismayed by what is said at a funeral. Inevitably, people will get up and recount events about the recently departed loved one and how their actions touched the lives of many and how much better the world is as a result. I always wonder if these people ever said those things to the person when he/she was alive. If not (and most of the time the answer would be no), they should have done so. This is the only way we can get a glimpse into the George Bailey revelation. For those you care about, tell them how much they mean to you and others now! Don't wait until it's too late and your praise falls on those who don't understand or don't appreciate the impact of the deeds and words.

What we do and how we do it will end up as our legacy. I know we rarely allow something that deep to enter into our thoughts, but it should. Unlike George Bailey, we can't "undo" a bad word or decision. We can however, learn from those and make the next one better. And the one after that even better still. While we'll never fully grasp or understand how we have shaped the world, we should know the world is the way it is today because of those who lived before us and from decisions we made in the past.

Clarence is not going to come down from Heaven to try and earn his wings. Trust me, he already has them. It is up to us to earn our wings. Don't wait for someone else to ring the bell!

For God and Country,
Jay



Auxiliary President Jackie Bowen

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope everyone is rested from all the hustle and bustle of the holidays. Speaking of hustle and bustle, what a great Christmas party we had. It was larger than last year and even though the silent auction was last minute we did pretty good. The kids (of all ages) enjoyed talking with Santa and all the delicious food.

One of my objectives this year is to try and have a few more fundraisers. The company we do the Butter Braid sales with also sells pot pie like products. I was thinking of trying that one to see how it goes. When we have these fundraisers, please contact your friends, family, and neighbors to see if they would like to purchase anything. We do good with the 3 or 4 people that sell the products, especially Mimi Weeks, but just think what we could do if more people helped. It doesn't matter if its Butter Braids or BOGO Blue tickets, SELL, SELL, SELL. The BOGO Blue tickets are a real deal for \$10. I spent \$20 on a school card kind of like BOGO Blue and it paid for itself the first time I used it. And the BOGO Blue I bought last year paid for itself many times over.

Another objective is to get more members in the Auxiliary. If you know of someone that qualifies, please invite them to visit any of the functions we have and let them see what a great organization we are.

We sent 150 of the Saluting America cards to the Army Unit we adopted while they were deployed. We spoke of this program in a past newsletter. If there is someone you would like to give one of the cards to just let us know and we can supply you with the card/cards.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly,

All shirts are on sale for \$15.00



American Legion "YOUNG GUNS" of Centennial Post 209, will be sponsoring a Basic Rifle Safety and Marksmanship course starting on Thursday, March 13, 2014. This is an American Legion sponsored program that is open to boys and girls ages 10 through 18. All participants and a parent, guardian or other responsible adult will be required to attend all sessions.

This Basic Rifle Safety Course will be taught by NRA trained and certified instructors. All books, supplies and ancillary equipment will be covered by a registration fee of \$10. The course will last for 9 evening sessions held on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Classes will be held at the Post and Air Rifles, safety glasses and all needed equipment will be provided.

The Junior Shooting Committee will be accepting registrations for up to 12 students for our March 13th class. For more information, please contact any member of the Junior Shooting Committee. To register, please contact committee Chairman, Ken Taylor. Plan now to attend and learn proper gun safety and handling.

Ken Taylor 719-495-8190 adjutantsal209@gmail.com (Chairman)

Rick Kettering 813-967-6680 commandersal209@gmail.com

Rusty Bower 682-478-9122 financesal209@yahoo.com

Gunny Raines 719-597-4766 gunnyr1@yahoo.com

Bill Weeks 719-597-4670 (No Email)

Chuck Sorrels 724-249-4849 (No Email)



From the Adjutant Larry Johnson

To all who receive or read this newsletter, I would like to wish each and everyone "A HAPPY NEW YEAR" and my wish for you this year is that I hope you and your family have the best year that you have ever had.

We have reached and exceeded our assigned membership goal for 2014. However, we have not achieved the one goal of renewing 90% of our existing membership. We have about 250 more Legionnaires to renew in order to reach that goal.

Someone once told me: "IT IS NOT THE PRICE YOU PAY TO BELONG, BUT THE PRICE YOU PAID TO BE ELIGIBLE." Today, those who are serving which could be our sons, daughters, grandsons, granddaughters, great-grandsons and great-granddaughters, nieces and nephews are the ones who have stepped up to fill our shoes and keep our country Strong and Free. They deserve the same or better medical care, mental care and other benefits that we have earned by our service to our great Nation and the Veterans who have fought for those benefits in the past. It is not too late to renew your membership for 2014 and get behind our Legion leaders who are fighting to retain and improve those benefits.

During the month of February, I will be deleting records of those who have not renewed for 2014. I hope it is not someone that I know or have recruited over the years or that I have been involved with The American Legion.

You know when we were on active duty we came across a lot of personalities. Some of them we liked, some we didn't but the one thing that we did was make do or we found ways around the problem. It is the same way in The American Legion.

A lot of my military NCOER'S often referred to me as someone who "LACKS TACT" because I would be blunt on a subject or discussion. That of course hurt when it came to promotions, until someone had been around me long enough to know that all I cared about was getting something done or recognized. I know I can be very opinionated at times. Through those times, the one thing that I learned or recognized was that I could not solve the problem if I walked away and did nothing about it.

What I'm trying to say – is if the reason you are not renewing your membership in the Post is because of something that I may have said or done (or anyone else in the Post for that matter) and you didn't like it, don't go away, tell me what I said or did and let's discuss the issue.

Our Post as well as The American Legion does what others cannot do and that is because of members just like you. You and future generations of Veterans are what makes The American Legion what is and what it is going to be in the future.

Please renew your membership for 2014 and into the future. The Veterans of today and tomorrow need your support if we are going to survive.

Thanks in advance for renewing.

PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY UPDATE

The Post has always had the responsibility of ensuring that every member was eligible to belong to the American Legion. In August or September, I informed you that the IRS was sort of forcing the all Posts to maintain a database or a copy of your DD Form 214 to show eligibility. Last month, the IRS and The American Legion worked out new guidelines that we need to take to ensure eligibility of our members. The Post still has to maintain a database on all of our members and the Adjutant can certify that he/she has verified the information provided.

The IRS inspector can require us to produce the DD Form 214 provided they (the inspector) has something that contradicts what has been provided. An example – many of us could have two, three or more enlistments when we were on active duty. One or two of these could have been honorable and one could have been a dishonorable. The IRS may believe only the honorable one was presented in order to become a member of The American Legion.

When you became a member of The American Legion you provided 90% of the information that is needed and we have recorded this information as we have received it. But we do need to recognize that the person who recruited you or the Adjutant at that time didn't keep records required and therefore the information did not get annotated as it should have.

I am trying to put together a card that will have the required information for the database and will be sending it you in the near future.

When you get it, please fill out the card and return it to the Post. It is my feeling that that if I have this information and get it recorded on our membership rosters, I won't need to have a copy of the DD form 214 unless you feel it would be easier just send me the form.

I hope to have this form created and out to you by the end of February.

Larry Johnson
Adjutant



The American Legion Boys State

American Legion Boys State is for students just completing their Junior year of High School. It is a week that will change the life of a boy forever! Government/Civics class that the boys live on campus at the Colorado State University in Pueblo. This year, Boys State will be held 8-14 June.

The Boys State program is one of the oldest youth programs in the Legion. Graduates include Astronauts, members of Congress, local and State officials, to name just a few who used this great program to jump start their leadership careers.

Each State sets up their own Boys State program. In Colorado, we don't put much emphasis on GPA; instead we rely on the desire of the young man to attend and learn how to create their own city Government, write and introduce a bill, and the whole election process. College credit is attained from this experience as well as an opportunity to compete for scholarship money. Boys State costs nothing for the boy or his family. Posts and individual donors make this week a reality.

If you know someone who may be interested in this program, contact the Post at 719-599-8624 for further information or visit www.colegionboysstate.org

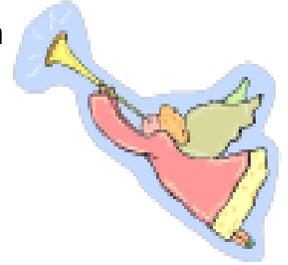


A Note from the Historian

Dear Post 209 Members,

I would like to start a memorial for our beloved members who have passed. Larry Johnson has helped along this effort by finding and saving several obituaries. I am open to suggestions on the best way to honor these members through some form of a memorial within the Post. This can be sensitive for many people and I will need prior permission before including each member.

Robert Johnson
Historian



From the Scout Coordinator John Brown

The year for Pack 24 and Pack 386 has been a wonderful one and thanks to our American Legion Post 209, both packs have enjoyed a great year of Scouting. We have positively impacted the young lives of over 150 boys and their families. It has been my pleasure to provide that link between the American Legion and the Scouting adventure.

In 2014 we will continue this adventure without the Crew 1911, which just didn't have enough 14 to 21 year old boys and girls to make a go. But we have gained a new member of the family. Starting in January 2014, Troop 321 will be chartered by the Post. This brings 10 to 12 young men from ages 10 1/2 to 18 under our umbrella. Hopefully you will be meeting them in the near future at a general membership meeting. They will not be meeting in our facility but will be doing community service for us in 2014. They are a new troop but with strong leadership and committee support. This will give you who have survival skills, merit badge experience and older scout knowledge the ability to work with the troop and assist them in their path to manhood.

Our packs will continue with the pack breakfast support and Pack 24 will be our "waiters" in January followed by Pack 386 in February. Both packs are under great leadership and strong financial standing. Both packs have reached the gold level in the BSA program called "Journey to Excellence" for last year's scouting program. Fewer than 10% of the packs in the Pikes Peak region reach this level. Hopefully next month I will be able to report on all the winners at the District Appreciation Dinner held on January 13, 2014.

If you are interested in knowing more about scouts or want to help, give me a call at 331-8160 or drop me an email at jbiii@aol.com.

John Brown
Scout Coordinator

AVON CALLING



the company for women

Thanks to those that helped with this fundraiser. And thank you Theresa for giving us this opportunity.

Club News!



We are once again in need of volunteers to open the Post 1530-2130 Monday-Thursday. We're also interested in getting someone to step up and offer to serve as the Lounge Manager. This person would help identify and coordinate events such as card, darts and pool tournaments.

We have done a lot of upgrades and encourage you to stop by and visit. Come on out and watch the game on our HD TV, throw some darts, shoot some Pool, play some cards, or just hang out and visit with your fellow members. Remember, if the weather is bad the Post may not be open. Consider calling first during these periods.

Also, unless otherwise posted, ALL dinner events will now begin at 1800 instead of 1830.

Ride Needed!

We have a Post member who lives in the Quail Lake area. He would like to attend more events but doesn't have transportation. If anyone lives in that vicinity and would be willing to coordinate transportation for him, please let Jackie Bowen know (see contact below). We will connect you with him directly.

BOGO Blue 2014

The Post would like to thank all who helped with the BOGO Blue fundraising effort this year. We were able to make about \$400 for the Post and our local Veterans. Once again, we have the opportunity to participate in this program. We need your help to make it even more successful than last year. We have the cards and will sell them again for \$10 each, with the Post keeping \$5. Like last year, you can pick up a pack with 6 cards in it. Sell five of them and keep the sixth one for yourself. We have some new Restaurants and Vendors added to the list from last year. Just one visit to most of the places offering discounts will more than pay for the \$10 purchase.

Please help! Either contact the Post and let us know you want a package, or better still visit us and pick one up.

Don Shuck
Sergeant-at-Arms

All shirts are on sale for \$15.00

Rusty Bower's new column to bring a little "salt" to the post.

Origin of NAVY Terminology



Goat Locker:

Entertainment on liberty took many forms, mostly depending on the coast and opportunity. One incident which became tradition was at a Navy-Army football game. In early sailing years, livestock would travel on ships, providing the crew the fresh milk, meats, and eggs, as well as serving as ships mascots. One pet, a goat named El Cid (meaning The Chief) was the mascot aboard the USS New York. When its crew attended the fourth Navy-Army football game in 1893, they took El Cid to the game, which resulted in the West Pointers losing. El Cid was offered shore duty at Annapolis and became the Navy's mascot. This is believed to be the source of the old Navy term, Goat Locker.

Rusty Bower
NAVY Senior Chief (Retired)



Win a Can-Am Spyder RS Motorcycle!



For the price of a \$20 Raffle Ticket, you have a chance to win a \$23,000 motorcycle. The Department of Colorado will be giving away this beautiful 3-wheel machine during

the Mid-Year Conference on 18 January in Longmont. You don't have to be present to win (although you should be there anyway). According to the website, the description for this fundraiser states: "Embrace the open road with this Can-Am Spyder RS motorcycle. The American Legion is the world's largest Veterans service organization. Our primary function is to see that veterans and their families receive all of the benefits they deserve because of their honorable service to their country. We believe in America. We love our freedoms, thanks to our Veterans. Many of our Veterans coming back from the latest wars are in desperate need of assistance. Proceeds from this raffle will be used to continue the programs of the Legion for all of our Veterans, their families and our communities. Drawing will be January 18, 2014 at the American Legion conference. Good luck to all."

The raffle is not restricted to the Legion family. Matter of fact, it is not restricted to Colorado. Anyone, anywhere in the US with an Internet browser can purchase a raffle ticket. But they will only sell 10,000. You can only buy the ticket online. Access to the raffle page can be found on the homepage of our Department website at www.coloradolegion.org

While the grand prize is obviously the motorcycle, if you buy a raffle ticket prior to 7 December, you also become eligible for two "Early Bird" drawings of \$100 (20 winners on 7 December) and \$50 (25 winners on 3 January 2014) respectively. And did you know your ticket will get discounts/deals at some of our supporting retailers? See the site for a list that is constantly growing.

Speaking of supporters, we need your help to get more retail support for this fundraiser. If you know of a Restaurant, store, or any other business who may be willing to help, let us know. The more support we get, the more attractive it will be for some folks to participate.



From the Senior Vice; Gregory Smith

It is the coming of seasons with happiness, cheer, and joy. It is also a time to share with others and let others know what is available, through the American Legion, to help each of us prepare for the coming new year. Over the last several months, there have been many of these opportunities to help others, but most important it is through membership.

Our Post members have been working hard and sharing the information about our services and the events of the Post. The Post is growing; each day we are becoming stronger and more of an influence in the state. We are an example to others to grow and be a representation of a Post family. Our membership is at 825 (unofficial count) members and this is 105% of our end of calendar year goal. The Post membership goal for the year is 789 members.

We cannot just make the goal; we have to exceed it. We need to continue each and every day talking to Veterans and their families about joining the American Legion. It is our Nation's voice for every Veteran. We need to do our part, which is to let Veterans and their families in the community know about the Centennial Post 209 family. New members have ideas and needs that the Post can help with or refer to another agency for assistance. Each new member knows other Veterans and this word of mouth networking will support the growth of the Centennial Post 209.

So, let's do our part and talk to as many Veterans and their families over this season of cheer and joy and give them the best gift of all—A Post Family.

Legion Riders

On December 19th, the first general information meeting for the Post 209 Legion Riders was held. There were nine riders in attendance and six others interested, but unable to attend the meeting. Our plan is to have one more general information meeting the third week of January to discuss some of the state requirements, By-Laws, and Constitution. The date is to be determined.

During the information meeting, we discussed the types of rides, lengths of rides, calendar of events, and potential dates and times to hold the Legion Riders meeting. We also discussed some of the interests in doing groups fundraising rides. After the next general information meeting, the plan is to establish the By-Laws and Constitution and submit for Executive Committee approval.

This is an exciting adventure for the Centennial Post 209 and more exciting to see our Veterans interest in this program. If you have questions, please contact the Senior Vice Commander, Gregory Smith @ gregoryvedd@me.com or 520-784-3555.





Centennial 209 Family Calendar of Events



Post Officers 2013-2014

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Jay Bowen	719-574-1223
Sr. Vice Cdr	Greg Smith	520-784-3555
Jr. Vice Cdr	Lyle Hagelberg	719-594-4039
Adjutant	Larry Johnson	719-622-0344
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	682-478-9122
Chaplain	Chet Dean	719-244-2442
Sergeant-at-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Historian	Rob Johnson	719-421-9201
Post Executive Committeeman	Neal Thomas	719-392-1510
Service Officer	C. "Gunny" Raines	719-597-4766
Judge Advocate	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610



Auxiliary Officers 2013-2014

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Jackie Bowen	719-574-1223
Vice President	Linda O'Riley	719-597-5673
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Mary Grier	719-536-0438
Chaplain	Marion Daugherty	719-637-9555
Sergeant-At-Arms	Lois Wooton	719-599-8683
Historian	Kari Ann Smith	520-784-7193



Sons of The American Legion 2013-2014

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
1st Vice Commander		
Adjutant	Ken Taylor	719-495-8190
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-478-9122
Sgt-At-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Chaplain	Chet Dean	719-244-2442
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177

6 Feb	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
8 Feb	Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary Meetings 10:00 am SAL Mtg 11:30 am
21 Feb	Steak Night! 6:00 pm RSVP REQUIRED
28 Feb	Fish Fry 6:00 pm RSVP REQUIRED
6 Mar	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
8 Mar	Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary Meetings 10:00 am SAL Mtg 11:30 am
9 Mar	Daylight Savings Time Begins! Spring Forward!
14 Mar	Hamdogger 6:00 pm
17 Mar	St. Patrick's Day!
21 Mar	Steak Night! 6:00 pm RSVP REQUIRED
28 Mar	Fish Fry 6:00 pm RSVP REQUIRED
3 Apr	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
4 Apr	Hamdogger 6:00 pm
12 Apr	Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary Meetings 10:00 am SAL Mtg 11:30 am
18 Apr	Steak Night! 6:00 pm RSVP REQUIRED
20 Apr	Easter Sunday!
25 Apr	Fish Fry 6:00 pm RSVP REQUIRED
1 May	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
2 May	Hamdogger 6:00 pm
10 May	Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary Meetings 10:00 am SAL Mtg 11:30 am
16 May	Steak Night! 6:00 pm RSVP REQUIRED
23 May	Fish Fry 6:00 pm RSVP REQUIRED
26 May	Memorial Day!

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

NON-PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

~ January 2014 ~						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Executive Committee Meeting 1830 hrs. 	3 Hamdogger 1800 hrs. 	4
5	Direct Mail Solicitation Recruiting Week - Help Needed					11 Legion, SAL, Auxiliary Monthly Meetings 0900 hrs. B'fast  1000 hrs. Meetings
12	13	14	15	16	17 Mid- Year Conference - Longmont Steak Night 1800 hrs. RSVP Req'd 	18
19 Mid- Year Conference	20	21	22	23	24 Fish Fry 1800 hrs. RSVP Req'd 	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	Notes: