

The Centennial



VOLUME 25 EDITION 2

FEBRUARY 2011

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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Jay Bowen

I love the winter! I guess that's one of the many reasons I enjoy living out here in Colorado Springs. It's quite a change from the South where I was raised. Back in West Tennessee, we didn't see much snow, but we would typically get an ice storm at least one time each winter season. For those that have suffered through one or many (one is more than enough) of those horrific storms, you too probably prefer snow. It's not just the snow that makes me relish this time of year. There's something about the fresh cool (or cold) air that seems to cleanse the body and soul. To me, cold air feels cleaner.

But there's something else about winter that's not so cool (pun intended). There are hundreds in our community that struggle just to stay warm. They may be living right next door to you, or it may even be you. As Legionnaires, we pride ourselves in providing help to our community. We take a leading role in helping our Veterans and their family members in need. Think about those living on your block, especially someone who may be living alone. About once a week, you should knock on their door to check in on them and say hello.

Speaking of helping others, I plan to set up 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 Emergency Response Team, or CERT. Ms. Patty Baxter works for the El Paso County Office of Emergency Management. She and her team will come to our Post and conduct these FREE training sessions.



It is open to anyone interested and capable to learn. It is not restricted to Legionnaires, Veterans, or adults. Patty told us the only requirement is you must be of age and mind to comprehend (that puts many of my Marine Corps buddies at risk). Sorry, I just couldn't resist that last part. Seriously, if you're willing to give up about 8 hours (we can do it in the evenings or weekends) to learn some great survival skills and how to be a first responder, let us know. I plan to try and set something up in March. I will need a headcount. We have to be able to tell Patty how many, and we need at least 10 people. I am confident we can get that number very easily.

Let's make March the month where we create a Post 209 CERT. And let's pray we never have to use the skills we learn.

Are you ready?

For God and Country,
Jay

WEB SITE UPDATE

We now offer our current and prospective Legion, Auxiliary and S.A.L. members the option of joining and renewing their membership on line using PayPal, one of the most trusted on line credit card services on the Internet. We can also receive donations and monthly pledges using PayPal. Visit our site at www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org and check it out. And tell your friends and neighbors about it. Some of us have put a link on Facebook and LinkedIn to the site, which has generated new members already. I encourage you to do the same if you have a social network account. We have already received two applications for the Legion and one for Son's of The American Legion.



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT
JACKIE BOWEN

At our first meeting of the New Year, we were happy to welcome two new members; Laurel Harmon and Joan Ciani. You may recognize Joan's name from previous articles. She visited with us several times and decided to join. What a great way to start out the New Year. Laurel was recruited by our Post Adjutant, Larry Johnson, so you don't have to be an Auxiliary member to recruit. (Hint, Hint Legionnaires) We were also honored to have Vicky Pettis from Crawford House as a guest. Naturally, she was informed that as a veteran, she can be a dual member.

I promised at the meeting I would list the items our deployed troops need/want. Things that are in very short supply; deodorant, good disposable razors, shaving cream, small containers of foot powder, summer weight boot socks, Chapstick, wet wipes, Slim Jims, and peanut M&Ms. If at all possible I would like to be able to send at least one box a month. The last line of our last "Thank you" letter from the Troops went something like this "keep'em coming." Of course we still need the helmet liners. Lynn Thomas has a pattern for these if you need it. God Bless our ladies that have been making sure we have the helmet liners to send. From what we've been told, the liners go pretty fast.

The umbrella sale is going well. We still have some left if you are interested in purchasing one. The cost again is \$15. We will probably order more once these all sell.

We have received our pocket flags and will be holding a flag folding meeting, Feb. 26th from 11:00am til 1:00pm. All hands are welcome and appreciated.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly,
Jackie Bowen



AUXILIARY
NOTES
MARION DAUGHERTY

We are facing the New Year, 2011, head on with each new adventure a challenge.

Our January meeting was well attended. We decided to skip a year with the "Secret Sisters" program. Perhaps next year we can begin again with this program.

Last month, I mailed the helmet liners the ladies prepared for soldiers on active duty. I received a thank you from the Red Cross letting us know how important the helmet liners were to the soldiers and a thank you note from the family of Mary Slagle for the sympathy card that I sent to the family.

With all of the holiday festivities, I failed to get the Birthday cards ready for mailing for those who celebrated their birthdays earlier this month. I am sorry, but never fear the cards are on their way.

For the past three years, Mavis Spath and her friend Daphne Good have been crocheting premie caps and booties for the premature babies at Memorial Hospital. Mavis has added helmet liners in addition to the premie work. This month Lori Hardy turned in helmet liners too. A big thank you goes out to you ladies for the dedication and hard work in this effort.

Don't forget the regular meeting on Saturday, 12 February with breakfast at 9:00 am and the Valentine dinner at 6:00 pm.

I will close with a Happy thought:

Laugh a little — sing a little as you go your way!

Work a little — play a little, do this every day!

Give a little — take a little, never wear a frown —

Make your smile a welcome thing all around town!

Laugh a little — love a little, Skies are always blue!

Every cloud has silver linings, but it's up to you.



Post Officers

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Jay Bowen	719-574-1223
Sr. Vice Cdr	Jerry Hodson	719-210-0607
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	Charles 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		



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 209 Calendar of Events

- 3 Feb Post Exec Meeting 6:30 P.M.
- 4 Feb Hamdogger, Wingding Night — 6:30 P.M.
- 6 Feb Super Bowl Party! Post 209 - Starts at 3:00pm
- 12 Feb Breakfast at 9:00 A.M.
Meeting (s) at 10:00 A.M.
Valentines Dinner at 6:00 P.M.
- 13 Feb Southern Colorado Regional Oratorical Contest; Post 209
- 18 Feb Chicken Fried steak Dinner beginning at 6:30 P.M.
- 26 Feb Auxiliary Flag Folding 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- 27 Feb. Dept Oratorical Contest — Post 161 Arvada
- 3 Mar Post Exec Meeting 6:30 P.M.
- 4 Mar Hamdogger Wingding Dinner 6:30 P.M.
- 12 Mar Breakfast 9:00 A.M.
Meetings 10:00 A.M.
- 17 Mar Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner 6:30 pm \$8.00 per person
- 19 Mar American Legion Birthday Celebration and dinner 6:00 p.m. \$10.00 per person
- 25 Mar Steak Night \$10.00 per person
- 1 Apr Hamdogger Wingding Night 6:30 PM
- 7 Apr Post Exec Meeting 6:30 P.M.
- 9 Apr Breakfast 9:00 a.m.
Meeting at 10:00 a.m.
Election of Officers
- 15 Apr Steak Night 6:30 P.M. \$ 10.00
- 23 Apr Easter Egg Hunt 1:00 P.M.





**From the
SENIOR VICE CDR
JERRY HODSON**

It's hard to believe that 2010 is at an end. So much has happened within the Post. We had a successful Hamdogger wingding night, a great general membership meeting where we had 10 new members in attendance. A greatly attended Initiation of new members and we had a dinner we won't soon forget. We were able to host Legionnaires, Auxiliary members and members of The Sons of The American Legion as well as members of The American Legion Riders of Colorado. You masterfully weathered the storm of events as true professionals who are dedicated to the success of our organization.

I want to express my thanks to each and every one of you for all that you contributed in order to make Post 209 the organization it is. We have experienced some awesome events and some losses throughout the year, but now it is time to take a step back, catch our collective breaths, and enjoy all of the great things the New Year has to offer.

Please keep in mind the Soldiers and Families who defend freedom worldwide, especially those who are deployed and cannot be with their families during holiday, birthdays and a large part of the New Year. They sacrifice so much for our Nation so that we can have the peace of mind to celebrate and enjoy the freedom we all share. Rose (my wife) and I wish for all of you and your families to have a prosperous 2011.

Don't forget to approach your veteran friends about our Post and ask them to become members. Our Post website has the PayPal system allowing us to pay membership dues and donations by credit card, so show everyone you know our website. As you know we have an incentive to gather new members as outlined in our January newsletter. The contest to gather new members is under way and by the time you read this we should be at the 500 members for 2011. We are only 26 members from our all time high membership goal. The 1st place holder for January is Legionnaire Arthur Kimbel, but we do not have a runner-up for the \$ 10.00 Wal-Mart gift card. This runner position will be an easy win, so get out there and talk to all you know about our Post, our website, and what fun we can have!

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 AmericanLegionPost209@yahoo.com 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 ten) can get a free hotdog when a parent purchases a regular meal.

Hope to see you soon.

**NOMINATION COMMITTEE AND ELECTION
OF OFFICERS.**

The Commander "Jay Bowen" will soon be establishing a nominations committee for the purpose of putting together a slate of officers that has the duty of leading us for another year.

We are looking for Legionnaires who have ideas, that can work as a team while moving the Post forward.

If you feel that you have the time, the fortitude and the skills needed please send an email to americanlegionpost209@yahoo.com or call the Post at 719-599-8624 and leave us a message and we will get back to you.

Let's band together and see where we can go in the future.





**FROM THE CHEF
De POST 209**

ART KIMBREL

Whether preparing meals for the hamdogger, winding night or preparing a dinner for a function of the Post, the problem that I have is, that I never know how many members and guests will be attending a meal. This causes a couple of problems. One is that we lose money on the meal because we have purchased food to ensure that everyone who comes will have food to eat. The second is that we end up throwing food away because of the amount we purchased and cannot use.

I am asking you read the "THE CENTENNIAL" newsletter and look at the events that are happening. Make a note of them, make plans to attend and send an email to AmericanLegionPost209@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.

One of the most unthinkable things is for the Post to throw a party/dinner and you came and because you didn't have an RSVP telling us that you were coming with guests, we didn't have the food available to feed you and your guests. This could happen; I hope it doesn't.

Something to keep in mind, we want to be known as the kid friendly 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 time with others with whom you have something in common.

12 Feb 2011, a Valentines Dinner will be prepared for your pleasure. The menu will consist of petite steaks, baked potato, vegetables, salad and a dessert.

18 Feb 2011, we will be serving a chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, asparagus spears, chocolate mousse for \$10.00 per person.

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



**From Scouts and Service Officer
John Brown**

Both of the Cub Packs are back in school and already immersed in the activities of the Scout Program.

On Tuesday, 4 March at 6:30 am at the Antlers Hotel the "Friends of Scouts" will be hosting a scouting session and you are invited. For further information please call John Brown at 719-331-8160 and I am sure that more information will be provided.

Looking into my ball of the future, I see that coming up is the "Soap Box Derby" and these scouts are looking forward to competing again. Last Year Pack 386 took first place and the traveling trophy. From all indications the scouts are looking towards keeping the trophy, which is located in the foyer of our Post Home. If you haven't seen it you should come on down and take a look at it.

Looking a little further down the road is the Blue and Gold Banquet. Anyone interested should attend the Post meeting in February as more information will be presented.

The scouts work hard and deserve the support that we provide them. The scouts would love to see you at the Pine Wood Derby and the Blue and Gold so they could express their thanks and you can see for yourself what is and has been accomplished.

**It's Super Bowl Party Time
at Post 209!**

It doesn't matter if you're a Steelers fan, a high flying Jet Setter, hibernating with the Bears, or Packing for Green Bay, you should join us at the Post for a Super Bowl Party on 6 February. The fun starts at 3:00pm and will go until the last whistle blows and the new Football Kings are crowned!

We'll have the game on the big HD screen and will have food and libation to help get you in the mood.

See you Super Bowl Sunday!





**From the
CHAPLAIN
MARIO TARACENA**

**GOOD REASONS TO WELCOME
FEBRUARY**

We are entering the shortest month of the year and possibly the coldest. But there are good reasons to be cheerful. First, we will be celebrating Groundhog Day on Feb. 2nd. According to folklore on this day, the little creature emerges from his burrow and if he doesn't cast a shadow the winter will be short. On the other hand if it is sunny and he casts a shadow, the winter will be 6 more weeks. Ok fellow Legionnaires, what is your bet? Short or long winter?

Second, we will be celebrating the Chinese New Year. According to the calendar this year is the year of the Rabbit as New Years is on Feb 3rd. In Chinese culture each year is designated by one of 12 animals and repeated every 12 years. EG: 2008 was the Year of the Rat, 2009 the Ox, 2010 the Tiger and 2011 the Rabbit, etc. Now here is your challenge: go to your computer and figure out what animal year you are and how old you are. Since 2008 was the Year of the Rat, those born on that year would be either, 1,13,25,37,49,61,73,98. Have fun!

This month we also celebrate Presidents' Day. Originally on the 3rd Monday of February George Washington birthday was honored, we now include other past Presidents. George Washington stands out in the minds and hearts of the American people because of his personal sacrifices and leadership. His patriotism and devotion to republicanism has the course of our country as an exceptional and unique nation. Thanks George!

News from fellow Legionnaires:

We are very thankful for the blessings some members of our Post have received lately. Back in August, Al Horne suffered an accident. After treatment and therapy, he is doing excellent.

Herman Hoggenmiller and his wife were spared from a bad car accident just before Christmas that left their car totaled. It was a miracle they suffered no serious injuries.

Al Cyriaque spent time in the hospital the first week of January and after some intensive care, he was sent home in good spirits with the expectations of full recovery.

Your prayers are important for the continuous recovery and well being of these fellow veterans.

Happy Valentines. Do not forget your sweetheart on the 14th or you will have no supper and sleep on the sofa!

STOP LOSS

Congress has extended the time frame in which a soldier that could be you or maybe you know of a soldier who was kept on active duty.

There are about 17,000 unpaid claims in the other services however, the Army has 58,000 expected claims to be paid and there is something like 35,000 not including the 28,000 claims that are pending

Because the Army cannot use the IRS and other government agencies to find the soldiers who need to file claims, it is up to organizations like the American Legion and Veterans like yourself to do the job.

I would like to ask you to take a moment and let everyone in your address book and ask those same to pass it on. It does take any money just the time to get the message out. If everyone did this, I am sure that within a week we could cover a huge numbers of veterans that have not filed claims.

Let's get out and help by passing his on.

Thanks



VA Health Expansion

VA Direct Deposit Update 01: The Department of the Treasury announced a new rule that will extend the safety and convenience of electronic payments to millions of Americans and phase out paper checks for federal benefits by 1 Mar 2013. Officials at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) urge Veterans to sign up for electronic payment of their benefits. "Receiving VA benefits electronically will increase the security, convenience and reliability of these vital payments," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "VA encourages Veterans who are now receiving their benefits in paper checks to set up direct deposits before the deadline." On 1 Mar 2013, VA will stop issuing paper checks. People who do not have electronic payments for their federal benefits by that time will receive their funds via a pre-paid debit card. Called the Direct Express card, it is issued by Comerica Bank as the financial agent of the U.S. Treasury.

Another deadline affects people receiving VA's compensation or pensions for the first time after 1 May 2011. Those people will automatically receive the benefits electronically. Anyone already receiving federal benefit payments electronically will be unaffected by the changes. To learn more about the federal government's switch to direct deposit - or to change VA benefits to direct deposit -- visit <http://www.GoDirect.org>. Information about the federal government's "Go Direct" campaign is also available at 800-333-1795. Along with payments for VA benefit, the change will also affect recipients of payments from Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Railroad Retirement Board, or Office of Personnel Management. [Source: VA News Release 21 Dec 2010]



WE WOULD
LIKE TO HEAR
FROM YOU

GIVE US
A
CALL

VA Medical Benefits Update 02: In January 2008 Congress increased Combat Veterans benefits by extending the period of enhanced health care enrollment from 2 to 5 years post discharge for Veterans who served in the theater of operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War, or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after 11 Nov 98, In addition discharged from active duty before 28 Jan 03 who had not enrolled in VA's health care system were provided an enhanced enrollment window through 27 Jan 2011. This enhanced enrollment provides cost-free hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care for any illness determined to be possibly related to their combat service. Veterans whose enhanced enrollment eligibility is about to expire are encouraged to enroll by either applying for enrollment on-line at www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/, contacting VA at 877-222-8387, mailing an application to their local VA medical center or visiting the nearest VA health care facility to apply in person. For more information regarding enrollment, refer VA's eligibility site at <http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility>.

[Source: <http://www4.va.gov/healtheligibility> Dec 2010]



From the Adjutant
Larry Johnson

Our membership currently stands at 502 renewed or new members for 2011. We have many Legionnaires who have not renewed from last year. If you are one of those who have not renewed, won't you take a few moments and re-consider and renew your membership by sending a check or money order for \$35.00 and send it to American Legion Post 209, PO Box 25334, Colorado Spgs, Co 80935. Or if you would like, please make use of our new option for renewing your dues by utilizing PayPal on our webpage to renew your membership.

We need your continued membership within The American Legion and Centennial Post 209.