

The Centennial

VOLUME I EDITION 3

MARCH 2020



AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209

3613 JEANNINE DR. COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80917
719-599-8624 WWW.LEGION209.ORG

MEET YOUR 2019 - 2020 OFFICERS!! 2019-2020 American Legion Post 209 Officers

Commander: Lino Calica 719.963.0956	Finance Officer: Mike Barger 719.290.3218	Executive Committeeman: Marvin Weaver Jr. 719.244.3535
Sr. Vice Commander: Joseph Schmidt 651.328.9029	Chaplain: Stan Hamamoto 719.322.6959	Judge Advocate: Marvin Weaver Sr. 719.638.4763
Jr. Vice Commander: Desiree Guerra 719.464.4699	Historian: Mike Wescott	Service Officer: Art Carter 603.913.3261
Adjutant: Jerry Hopper	Sgt At Arms: Sarah Tobin 719.439.7724	Club Manager: Art Kimbrel 719.339.4610

2019-2020 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers

President: Cathy Barger 719.290.3163	Secretary: Pat Weaver 719.638.4763	Chaplain: Madelyne "Hooty" Newborn
Vice President: Donna Testorff	Treasurer: Kellie Hayes 719.494.7167	Historian: Royce Hopper
		Sgt At Arms: Kris Floyd 719.308.2150

2019-2020 Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209 Officers

Commander: Eric Testorff 719.510.4177	Adjutant: Ken Taylor 719.461.4047	Sgt At Arms: Bob Ingram 480.353.8234	Chaplain: Steve Cox 970.580.8191
Sr. Vice Commander: Michael Wescott	Jr. Vice Commander: Vacant		Historian: Evan Schwartzbart

2020-2021 American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers

President: Steve Hayes 719.494.7166	Treasurer: Kellie Hayes 719.494.7167	Vice President: Tim McDowell 719.510.9907	Road Captain: Wade Newborn 719.360.4956
Secretary: Mike Sylvester	Sgt At Arms: Mark Griffin 508.314.4554		

2019-2020 Amateur Radio Club Officers

President: Jon Davis K0YOV 719.310.3721	Vice President: George Johnson KE0ALQ	Director: Jim Harris WOEM
	Secretary: Harvey LeCato W1JU	Treasurer: Henry Russell KCONAJ



FROM THE DESK & MIND OF THE COMMANDER – MARCH

Greetings everyone. I want to take this opportunity to welcome the new members and their families to the Post 209 Legion family. I want to thank you all for your service to the military and our country. If you have recently become a new member or transferred from another American Legion Post, thank you for selecting Post 209 to be your home Post. If you are an existing member who recently renewed your membership, it is a great honor to have your continuous service to Post 209. All of you as members make Post 209 a family-oriented Post as well as the number one Post in Colorado. It is a great honor to be your Commander.

The past few years Post 209 has incorporated a **“Sponsor a Veteran Program.”** It was started by Mike Barger and gives us the opportunity to give back to veterans from WWII, and Korea by renewing their membership. In 2018/2019, we raised enough funds to renew 70 veterans’ membership. In March we will promote the **“Sponsor a Veteran Program”** once again. If you are interested in sponsoring a veteran or donating funds to this program, please contact Sr. Vice Commander Joe Schmidt, Post Adjutant Jerry Hopper, or me. I challenge every member to surpass last year’s numbers, in which we sponsored 44 veterans. I firmly believe we are capable of doubling that number. Our membership count as of February 14 was 978 members who have renewed, or joined. The key to growth and success of our Post is to lead by example and to serve the needs of our Veterans and their families. I challenge each member to sign up one new member to the Post. Remember the 3R’s: **Recruit** - New members **Retain** - Existing Members, **Rebuild** - For the Future.

Just a reminder, elections are coming up in April. All positions are up for nomination. Marvin Weaver Jr. will chair the nominating committee. If you are interested in running for a position or multiple positions, contact him at (719)244-3535 or weaverjrm@comcast.net.

I am proud to announce that the following Post 209 members have informed me they will be running in the next election for Department positions. During the February general membership meeting, we unanimously voted to endorse the following candidates; **Dean Noechel** for Department Commander, **Marvin Weaver Jr.** for Department Finance, **Stan Hamamoto** for Department Chaplain, and **Joe Schmidt** for Department Sergeant-at-Arms.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved with the programs or part of the leadership team, please contact any of the Post officers.

S.A.L.T. – Serving and Learning Together

Lino Calica
Post Commander





FROM THE SR. VICE COMMANDER - MARCH

As our Nation prepares for the upcoming election cycle, we as a Post want to encourage all Legionnaires and their eligible Family members to vote. Voting is a tremendous privilege and a hallmark of our democracy. However, we must remember our mission as the American Legion is apolitical. Legionnaires should abide by the rules set forth in the National Constitution & By Laws. The Post Officers Guide very clearly outlines its stance on political affiliations.

According to Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution of The American Legion, "The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment." The national charter, approved by Congress, also stipulates The American Legion as an organization is nonpolitical, which has been interpreted by the national judge advocate as "nonpartisan" in modern lingo. Therefore, The American Legion as an organization is prohibited from contributing, helping or endorsing a candidate. However, a member - as a private citizen and not representing the organization - can employ whatever legal and ethical means to advance his or her candidate.

Additionally, the Legion cap is considered the official Legion uniform. It is not an individual Legion member's decision on the appropriate usage of the cap and emblem. If attending a political event, the American Legion cap, or any clothing with the emblem visible, should be removed so as not to imply endorsement by The American Legion. If attending an official American Legion event or activity, any clothing politically endorsing a candidate or party, should be removed so as not to imply endorsement by The American Legion. The problem is the assumption of endorsement by those who see the emblem or name worn at an improper location, such as a partisan rally. In short the emblem & partisan politics don't mix.

The American Legion values its independence and effectiveness on veterans' issues. This stance is best maintained by neutrality on individual candidates or political parties. The American Legion by legal definition is nonpartisan and supports only issues that impact the Four Pillars.

Again, we encourage all Legionnaires to exercise their right to vote and participate in our political process within the bounds of existing laws, regulations, and policies. If you have any questions about the American Legion and its position on political activities, please reach out to any of the Post leadership.

Joseph A. Schmidt
Post Sr. Vice Commander



FROM THE DESK OF THE POST ADJUTANT - MARCH

Winter is closing soon and I hope this newsletter is finding everyone doing well. In an effort to ease some of the expenses of the Post, the Executive Board made the decision to close out the post office box. All mail will be directed to 3613 Jeannine Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80917.

The Post Executive Board elections will be held during the general membership meeting on April 11. All positions are open. Anyone wishing to run for an office is encouraged to do so.

Jerry Hopper
Post Adjutant



It's What We Do!!

TALARC Newsletter Input for March



Club members are supporting Scout Merit Badges related to Ham Radio. We are continuing to support achievement of the Radio Merit Badge. Two members went to Camp Alexander on February 15th for a site survey and preliminary “ops check” in preparation for a March 7th weekend event. We put up a 20-meter “ebay” dipole and made a few contacts. The dipole needed a bit of shortening to reduce SWR! We will be operating and helping Scouts complete the necessary requirements.

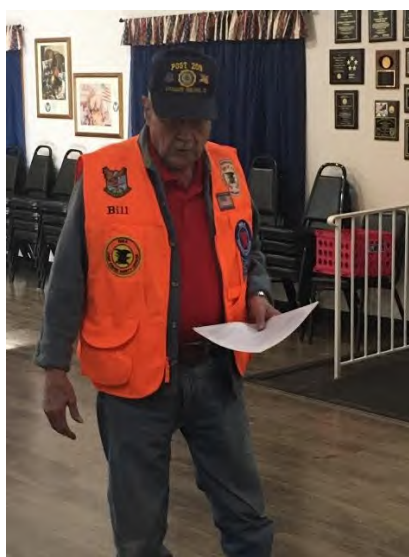
American Legion 101st Anniversary Event - We will activate the Post’s station on March 14th to celebrate The American Legion’s 101st birthday. Details forthcoming.

!!!!!!! By the way --- what kind of events would **you** like to see take place? What will spark your interest to come out and do something fun? Your input will be greatly appreciated.

Contact: Club Secretary, Harvey LeCato 331-1212 mbca@comcast.net.



The Young Guns Basic Marksmanship class started February 13, 2020 with seven students in attendance. David Hall started with introductions and the Safety Pledge followed by Bill Weeks who went over Range Commands. Jesse Wade covered parts of the Rifle and sight alignment. Students then selected a Rifle to use for the duration of the class and fired several shots from the bench rest position. Everyone did a great job and we’re looking forward to next week.



February 12, 2020 was the start of the winter session of NRA Marksmanship at Post 209. All shooters started by zeroing their rifles at 10 meters. When done with zero, they began shooting their respective positions, either standing, kneeling, or prone. We’re off to a great start!



American Legion Colorado Boys State By AJ Carter and Bill Marshall

American Legion Boys State is a six-day hands-on educational seminar that mirrors the operations of city, county and state government. The program is a leadership, character building and growth experience **for high school students who have completed their junior year and have at least one semester remaining in high school.** It is among the most respected educational programs in government instruction for high school students in the nation. Boys participating can receive **three** college credits from UCCS and be eligible for several scholarships. Go to our website at <http://colegionboysstate.org/> for full details. Each year, approximately 20,000 young men nation-wide attend Boys State, and it is recognized as a leadership program by the service academies, colleges and universities. Many employers also consider Boys State attendance a plus on job applications. **There are no GPA, class standing or student activity requirements.**

Participants are taught the rights, privileges, duties and responsibilities they will assume as adult citizens of the US. The training is objective and practical with boys serving in elected or appointed city, county and state government offices. Boys are assigned to a fictitious political party, called Nationalist or Federalist. They create party platforms, conduct party conventions, campaign for office, nominate and elect officials within the city, county and state levels to form their 51st state. They introduce and argue bills in their own legislature, and learn through the process that government is what they make it. We even have a Judiciary group complete with lawyers arguing cases to the Boys State Supreme Court.

The 2020 American Legion Colorado Boys State will be **May 30 through June 4** at UCCS. Participants are housed in the campus dormitories and all activities are conducted on campus. The Boy State staff also resides in the dormitories for supervision. **Tuition is paid for by The American Legion** through donations from their sponsoring Post and a variety of other sources; **there is no cost to families.** Interested boys should contact their counselors.

Do you know a young man who will be completing his Junior year of High School in 2020 and will have at least one more semester of High School remaining? If so, we encourage you to have him go to our website and register for this "Week That Will Shape a Lifetime!"

Yum, Yum, Eat'em up!! – March Butter Braid Sale



Starting March 13, 2020 we will be doing another Butter Braids sale. Tell your friends, neighbors, and your neighbors' friends about the sale. Please turn in orders no later than April 3, 2020. Delivery date is Wednesday April 8th. I'll send an email or call with delivery time. Make checks payable to ALA Unit 209. The price is \$13.00 per braid and cookie order. You may also order coffee beans. We need the payment before the delivery date. You may call Jackie Bowen, (719) 574-1223 or email jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com, with an order and then mail a check to her or discuss receipt of payment. Thanks in advance for helping us make this a success.

FLAVORS include: Caramel Rolls (9 rolls); Apple; Blueberry Cream Cheese; Cinnamon; Strawberry Cream Cheese; Bavarian Crème; Chocolate Chip Cookies (gluten free cookie dough); Kona Blend (K-cup) coffee; Harmony-Medium (12 oz bag of whole beans) coffee

FROM THE DESK OF THE POST FINANCE OFFICER

Well, here it is March already. The first month of the year we ended up in the red, \$619. As of the month of February, we are halfway through it so far, and we're looking good. If all goes as planned, we will end up in the black for February. The taxes for 2019 have been submitted and completed, so that's another thing we can mark off our plate to complete.

As you all know, elections are coming up in April, and I would like to let you know that the Finance Officer position will be open for anyone to put their name in to run for it. I will be stepping aside from this position. I feel it's time that we get someone else to step up and provide their talents and expertise to this position. I will be available to assist the incoming Finance Officer once one has been elected.

We have a few large expenditures that we will have to take care of this year. One will be us having to resurface the parking lot, and the other will be with us moving forward with the purchase of a club license to sell alcohol. The initial cost to start this will be the big dollar figure, and then the yearly cost afterwards will be much lower. The need for this is to keep us in compliance with the State of Colorado laws.

Mike Barger
Post Finance Officer



**What? American Legion Auxiliary
Unit Bunco Fundraiser on 15 March,
2020 from 2 to 5 p.m.**

**Where? 3613 Jeannine Drive,
Colorado Springs, CO 80917**

**Who? All members of The American
Legion Family are welcome!**

**Entry Fee is \$15.00; snacks will be
available.**

How? Please RSVP to Jackie Bowen, jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com or 719-574-1223.

Why? All proceeds will go to support our Unit and local area Veterans and their family.





FROM THE DESK OF THE SAL COMMANDER – MARCH

The Sons of the American Legion, while supporting our Post, our Legionnaires and our veterans, have nevertheless a slightly different orientation than that of The American Legion. The SAL has a focus on the sons and grandsons of wartime veterans. To that end, we feature a training program called the “Five Point Program of Service,” also known as the 5-Star Program.

The five “points” of our star are designed to teach our members, young and old, 5 sets of skills and knowledge, which will enrich their lives and the lives of those around them. You may have seen the blue-and-silver stars on the SAL caps of some members. There are 5 possible stars to be awarded each successful participant. Each star means that the member has completed that particular point in the program.



Point 1 is **PATRIOTISM**. It requires a working knowledge of our country’s history and of our country’s flag, including the proper way to display and respect it.

Point 2 is **CITIZENSHIP**. This requires the member to show his usefulness in outside activities and display a working knowledge of the qualities of a good citizen.

Point 3 is **DISCIPLINE**. This is for the member who shows respect for rules and obedience to them in all his activities.

Point 4 is **LEADERSHIP**. For the member who displays these qualities in different situations.

Point 5 is **LEGIONISM**. This is where the member shows that he understands the mission of the American Legion, and understands the rituals, the activities and the goals of the Sons of the American Legion.

If you see a member of the Sons of the American Legion with these stars on his cap, be aware they represent much work and study in order to better themselves as citizens, and to be a better asset to their Squadron and their Post. Congratulations to all 5-Star recipients!

Eric Testorff
SAL Squadron Commander



FROM THE LEGION RIDERS – MARCH

ALR 209 completed a banner year in 2019. We were able to participate in a number of rider events throughout the year. Some of the highlights included the Biker Ball for McCandless, our high country run through Fairplay (the first of six high mountain rides through the year, including up Pikes Peak), Defenders of Freedom run, the Cripple Creek Rally/Salute to Veteran's Ride and numerous poker run/benefit events run by different organizations across the Front Range. Our annual Poker Run was a huge success as our primary fundraiser to support veteran's causes throughout the year. 2019 was the third annual Neal Thomas Jr Memorial ride for the Post Veteran's Assistance Fund. For the first time, we rode to Neal's gravesite at Fort Logan National Cemetery. Our 2019 events culminated with support to the annual Homeless Veteran's Stand-down followed by the Transitional Housing Initiative Dinners in October/November and our annual Christmas run to McCandless in December. We were also proud to be able to support the post with Rider contributions to the window upgrade, the lighting conversion to LED and with the purchase/install of the new shed for the UTV. All of these support efforts were to help lower utility expenses for the post and relieve us from having to pay a company to plow the parking lot after the snows. So far, we've been able to plow the lot following all three major snows since the UTV was stored on site. All of those efforts by ALR and the legion family will help the post focus more resources toward mission rather than overhead into the future. Looking forward, we have an even more exciting year planned for 2020. Elections are in January and the new terms start in February. The ride/event calendar will finalize by the end of January and will be posted on the website shortly thereafter. Mark the dates and join us when you can!



FROM THE DESK OF THE UNIT PRESIDENT - MARCH

I want to WELCOME all our new members and their families who have joined or transferred to the Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 Legion family.

Elections are coming in April. All positions to include Unit President are up for nomination. If you would like to run for office, please send Jackie Bowen at jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com an email on what position you are interested in running for. The offices and a short explanation of the positions are:

President - to conduct meetings of the Unit and Unit Executive committee.

Vice-President - assist the President and, perform those duties in the President's absence.

Secretary - record all proceedings and maintain those recordings.

Treasurer – receive/dispense all money belonging to the Unit and account for them.

Chaplain - offer opening and closing prayers at the meetings.

Historian - compile historical records of the Unit and send reports to Department.

Sergeant-at-Arms – preserve order at the meetings.

You can also find descriptions in your Unit handbook and online at www.alacolorado.com or www.alaforveterans.org.

At our next membership meeting we will be doing group photos (\$5.00ea) for the Historian book. If you would like a personal photo or one with your spouse plan to be at the meeting.

Don't forget this month Auxiliary will be hosting dinner on March 13th at 6:00 p.m. The menu TBD. Check Legion209.org for more details. Our next meeting is on March 14th at 10:00 a.m. Come and have breakfast beforehand, at 9:00 a.m. Remember to check out the calendar for all the Legion Family Dinners.

Soon we will be heading into Girls State season. We will be doing interviews for those young ladies. If you would like to be a sponsor, contact Kellie Hayes at hayeskelliej@yahoo.com or 719-494-7167.

I would like to wish the following ladies a HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Theresa (Terry) Albert, Jackie Bowen, Sandra Carr, Charyse Schmidt, Kellie Hayes, Mary Jenkins, Robin Pehle, Patricia Rice, Sherryl Surrena, Brenda Wash, Patricia Weaver. Make sure to wish these ladies Happy Birthday when you see them.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly!

Cathy Barger
Unit President



BRINGING A LITTLE SOUTH TO THE WEST

If you read my articles, you know last month I wrote about the technology available when I was growing up. That offering was primarily about how televisions were then and how they've changed. This month let's re-visit the music mediums.

Growing up, I didn't have a choice of AM/FM in our home. We had an AM radio. There were many stations, but only a few played Rock N' Roll. Fortunately, Mom and Dad allowed us to listen to that type of music, but only for a few hours each day. But that was okay. It was enough for us to whet our appetite and focus on what records we wanted to buy.

I wanted the freedom to listen to my music whenever I wanted, so I saved my money and bought a transistor radio. It was pretty cool. It was about 5" tall, 4" wide, and about an inch thick. It was powered by a nine volt battery like the type used in smoke detectors today. Back then, they were just referred to as transistor radio batteries. Matter of fact, I still call them by that name.

The transistor radio was very cool. It had a relatively cheap plastic frame with a hard plastic screen covering the speaker and a retractable antenna, and if you were standing in just the right spot and tuned the station in properly, you had music blasting through the air. As I recall, the issues I had was occasionally losing signal as I moved around or accidentally swiping my fingers across the tuner wheel, which was pretty sensitive and moved easily. But the music coming out of that radio made the little inconveniences worthwhile.

And speaking of records, we had a choice of two types; Albums, or LP (Long Playing), which rotated at 33 1/3 RPM on our phonograph, and there was also the 45's, which you guessed it, played at 45 RPM on the record player. Most 45's had one song per side, and LP's typically had 6-8 songs on each side.

The 45's were my favorite because I was buying the song I really wanted to hear and it was much cheaper than buying an entire album just to get the 2 or 3 songs I really liked. Side A of the 45 was the song on the charts, and normally Side B would just be a "filler" song. As a rule, Side B of a 45 didn't get much play on the radio. Some rare exceptions were Elvis and The Beatles. They had so many hits at the same time, many of their Side B's were just as popular as their Side A or even more so. Record producers tried not to do that because it cost them money in sales.

When they came out with record players that had the long stem in the middle (called a spindle) for stacking several records that was a real breakthrough in technology. You could put 8-10 45's on at one time or about 5-6 LP's (they were much heavier). The spindle had a release about half-way down that would fold in just enough to allow one record to drop on the platter after the tonearm would move out of the way. We believed whoever came up with that was a genius!

Compared to today, the sound quality didn't come close to the music we have on CD's and DVD's. The records would "skip" due to scratches and extended play, or they would get caught up and repeat the last 2-3 words of the song. Sometimes we'd have to just tap the arm to get the needle moving. Also, after playing the records over and over, we'd often get static playing in the background. This would also happen if the record got dirty. But we learned that you could wash the record in lukewarm water and dish soap to clean it. You just had to be careful drying it off.

The first tape player I remember having was an 8-track. I bought one for my '64 Buick Special. It mounted underneath my radio and allowed me to play only the music I wanted to play. The tapes were pretty inexpensive and bulky. They were about 5-6" long and about 4" wide. There was a distinctive click when it would change tracks and it would play continuously or until you pulled the tape out of the machine.

There was other technology that came about as I lived through my teens and 20s. It seemed as if as soon as one was perfected (or at least made better), some brand new technological advancement would be introduced. 8-tracks were replaced by cassettes, and cassettes were replaced by CDs, which was replaced by iPods, and it goes on and on. I finally decided if I waited for the latest and greatest technological device to be marketed, I would never buy anything. You just need to pick one and go with it. Gotta go, I have a Betamax tape to watch. 😊



Jay Bowen
Past Post Commander



Happy 101st Birthday American Legion!!!

**Still Serving our Veterans, Their
Families, Mentoring and Developing our
Youth to be the Leaders of Tomorrow,
Advocating for a Strong National
Defense, and Leading the Way in
Americanism by Showing our Patriotic
Pride!**

**We Were There Then! We Are There
Now! We Will Be There Always!**

Then! Now! Always!

March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	3	4 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	5 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm  Young Guns 6:30pm	6 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	7
8 Daylight Saving Begins	9 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	10	11 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	12 TALARC Meeting Young Guns 6:30pm 	13 \$10.00 Meal Aux. Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	14 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am 
15 Bunco Fundraiser 2:00pm-5:00pm 	16 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm ALR Exec. Board 6:00pm 	17 Saint Patrick's Day	18 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	19 Start of Spring Young Guns 6:30pm 	20 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	21
22	23 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	24 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm 	25 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	26 Young Guns 6:30pm 	27 \$10.50 Meal Wing Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	28 Earth Hour
29	30 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	31	Notes:			

April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	2 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm  Young Guns 6:30pm	3 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	4
5	6 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	7	8 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	9 Holy Thursday Young Guns 6:30pm 	10 Good Friday \$10.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	11 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am 
12 Easter	13 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	14	15 Tax Day (Taxes Due) Marksmanship 6:30pm 	16 Young Guns 6:30pm 	17 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	18
19	20 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm ALR Exec. Board 6:00pm 	21	22 Earth Day	23	24 \$10.50 Meal Chef's Choice! - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	25
26	27 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	28 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm 	29	30	Notes:	