

# CENTENNIAL 209 NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 24 EDITION 3 March 2010  
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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander  
Jay Bowen

If you have been reading our newsletters and/or attending the monthly meeting, you probably know that our Commander, Phil Larsen accepted a new position in Shreveport, LA. He is there as I write this article and will return only to pack his household goods and relocate to Cajun country. In accordance with our Post By-Laws, Article IV, Section 2, as the Senior Vice Commander I have been given the honor to complete Phil's term of office. Whether I continue to serve you into 2010 will depend solely on you and how you feel I am doing over the next three months. I would encourage you to come to a meeting and check us out. I don't conduct business or meetings as some of my predecessors. That's neither good nor bad. I'm just different. We will still get the business of the Post addressed, but I plan to try and have fun while doing it, and I will make you a solemn promise that I will never knowingly do anything to embarrass our Post or the American Legion. I will endeavor to make my monthly correspondence in this newsletter informative, and light. Hopefully, you will want to read it. I plan to also try and have a guest speaker at every meeting. I want to target someone who will bring news of interest to our membership at large. Continue to check the web site for a sneak peak each month. Matter of fact, I have a speaker lined up for the March meeting. Jim Tackett, the El Paso County Veterans Assistance rep and Post 209 member will be our guest speaker. Jim will talk with us about Veterans benefits and how and why to get into the VA system. Please join us for this informative sharing of information. You may be surprised to learn you are missing out on an important benefit for honorably serving our country.



President's Column  
Jackie Bowen

We have three new members to welcome, Susie Beardslee, Evelyn Muckelrath, and Mildred Slagle. Ladies, we are at 150% of our membership goal and you make my heart proud. At Mid-Year we received recognition for the outstanding job on membership and we have our membership chairman, Annie Peterson, to thank for a job well done.

If you weren't at our meeting you missed meeting two special ladies from Project Sanctuary, Heather Maxey and Michelle Bruce. Project Sanctuary provides therapeutic retreats for military families. Our Unit has donated some monies to this wonderful cause. If you would like to know more about this wonderful organization visit their website at [www.ProjectSanctuary.US](http://www.ProjectSanctuary.US).

We are looking for sponsors for both Girls and Boys State. If you would like to sponsor a girl or boy or know of someone else that might want to be a sponsor please let us know. For Girls State sponsorship please contact Annie Peterson at 599-3818 or [annielp@pcibroadband.net](mailto:annielp@pcibroadband.net). For Boys State contact Bill Marshall at [WMarsh6869@aol.com](mailto:WMarsh6869@aol.com). "Colorado Columbine Girls State is a program of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Colorado. With a history dating back over 60 years, the program is a hands-on training session in local and state government, voting, the legislative process, patriotism and the rights and duties of all citizens of the United States." "Boys State is a program of the American Legion National Americanism Commission since 1935 and Colorado Boys State has been conducted annually since 1949. Nationwide there are more than 25,000 young men participating in the program each year. To hear these young men and women speak of their experiences at these worthwhile programs is a blessing."



From the Desk and Mind  
Of the Commander (continued)

Now for other news. We are gearing up for elections, which will be held at the April membership meeting. We are not only accepting nominations for each post position, we are encouraging people who have felt the urge to serve to step up and let us know. All Post officer positions are open to any member in good standing. We know of a few positions that will be left vacant if we don't have a willing member to volunteer to serve. Let's not let that happen. The pay isn't that good (there really is no salary for any position), but the perks are great! I won't tell you what those are; you have to witness them for yourself. The most rewarding part of serving in a Post position is that you are given the privilege to represent almost 500 of the greatest Veterans in this city. So please consider raising your hand.

Speaking of almost 500 Veterans in our post, we are less than 50 away from reaching an all-time high in Post membership. We only have until July to get there, so please don't let this opportunity get away from us. Talk to your neighbors, your friends at work, church, the golf course, and anywhere else in town. If only a quarter of our current membership brings in one new member, we will blow past our goal. You must feel this is a good cause, so I encourage you to share the reasons you belong with a fellow Vet.

We are working on some pretty cool stuff for both the web site and activities at the Post. Keep checking in with us for updates. The best way to do that is to come to our monthly meetings. It is the best breakfast in town at the best price, and you will stay abreast on activities and events we are planning. You may also feel the urge to get involved and help plan or support an event. That makes it even more fun. Your recommendations for things to do are always welcomed and encouraged.

Well, I think I have taken up enough time and space this month. Again, I look forward to serving this great post and the members. Let me know how you think we are doing and where we can improve.

For God and Country,  
Jay



President's Column  
Jackie Bowen

If you didn't attend our Valentine's dinner, you missed a great dinner and entertainment. Maybe next year more members will join us for this wonderful event.

I had the pleasure of meeting some of Pack 386 members a few weeks ago. The young gentlemen came to the Post and helped clean the basement and outside of the building. Thank you to all the young men that participated.

Remember to keep checking the calendar for all of our upcoming events.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly,  
Jackie Bowen



Service Officer  
John Brown

Agent Orange update

Three new Agent Orange presumptive conditions have been added to the potential VA disability claims list. They are B Cell Leukemia, Parkinson Disease and Ischemic Heart Disease.

The VA has instructed Regional Offices to delay processing of claims for the newly designated diseases until publication of final rules which may take as long as five months. However, members who fit any of these categories may want to open initial claims or to reopen previously denied claims for these three conditions to ensure expeditious handling of the claims when the rules are in place.



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Chaplain  
Mario Taracena

### NEWS FROM POST MEMBERS

#### CONGRATULATIONS: YOU ARE A LEGIONNAIRE

During WWI (August 4, 1914-November 11th, 1918), President Wilson sent the American Expeditionary Forces to Europe to fight on the side of the Allies against the imperialist forces of Germany. After the war, some members of these forces formed a group to continue comradeship and morale led by Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. This group of Veterans set up committees and asked for delegates to attend an organizing meeting in Paris on March 1919. On March 17, 1919, and after 3 days of discussions by about 1000 attendees, a constitution and name was adopted: The American Legion. The first post was organized in Washington D.C. on May 7th, 1919 as Post #1, "The Pioneer Post". Subsequently Congress granted the Legion a charter on September 16, 1919 as patriotic, compassionate and Veteran Organization.

It is not often that we get to report great things from our members however, on 18 November, Stephen and Danielle Cady had a baby boy. Congratulations to you and our blessing go out to you and your baby. Hope to see you in the future.

#### EAT AND MAKE MONEY FOR THE POST

Albertsons Markets will help us raise funds for our post. We have arranged to set up an account in all Albertsons Grocery stores in the Springs and Denver areas. Every time a Post member buys anything we get a percentage of the money spent. If you do all your weekly purchases at any of these stores, it will add up. At the end of each quarter the post will receive a check. The possibilities are great. The potential to get up to \$6,000 a quarter is there.

Albertsons will be sending us an ID that looks like a credit card. Use the card for your family, friends, etc and we will make money for the post.

For God and Country.

## American Legion Birthday



You are invited to the 91<sup>st</sup> Birthday of the American Legion

**WHEN:** Saturday, 6 March 2010; Social Activity 5:30 P.M.  
Dinner served at 6:30 P.M. and entertainment to follow

**MENU:** Roast Beef, mashed potatoes, salad, veggies, and dessert

**COST:** \$13.00 per person, which includes entertainment

**RSVP:** Let us know how many will be in your party, by contacting the Post at 719-599-8624 or email us at [AmLegion209@base.comcast.net](mailto:AmLegion209@base.comcast.net)



### Post Officers

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Jay Bowen	719-574-1223
Sr. Vice Cdr	Vacant	
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	719-531-0546
Past Commander	Bill Marshall	719-495-0088

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	



### 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



4 Mar	Post Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 P.M.
6 Mar	Legion Birthday Party and Dance 5:30 P.M.
13 Mar	BREAKFAST 9:00 A.M. Post and Auxiliary meeting 10:00 A.M.
13 Mar	Cub Pack 396 Soap Box Derby 1-5 P.M.
15 Mar	Newsletter Article Due
17 Mar	St Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage 5:30 P.M.
31 Mar	Post Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 P.M.
3 Apr	Easter Egg Hunt 2:00 P.M. for children 10 and younger
6-10 Apr	National Commander visits Colorado
8 Apr	Post Executive committee Meeting 6:30 P.M.
10 Apr	BREAKFAST 9:00 A.M. Post and Auxiliary Meeting 10:00 A.M. Elections of Officers
13 & 20 Apr	Cub Pack 386 meets at Post home 6:30 P.M.
24 Apr	Cub Pack 386 Yard Sale in Parking lot of Post home. 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
6 May	Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 P.M.
8 May	BREAKFAST 9:00 A.M. Post and Auxiliary Meeting 10:00 A.M. Installation of Officers
9 May	Mothers Day — Potluck dinner at 6:30 P.M.
11/18 May	Pack 386 meets at the Post 6:30 P.M.
15 May	District 7 Convention in ELKS Lodge Cripple Creek 11:00 A.M. Joint meeting
21-23 May	Dep't of CO Legion College, Denver
31 May	Memorial Day Observation Open House 1:00 P.M.

## 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 will certainly attest.

Beginning in January the cost of the breakfast will be raised to \$8.00. The reason for the small increase 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 to 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.



### Colorado American Legion Adventures is HERE!!

Veterans are the guys who took chances. Truth is, they still are. But now they are doing it at 140 mph in freefall with parachutes on their backs!

**Welcome to The Colorado American Legion Adventures**, the latest brainchild of The American Legion, Department of Colorado. Get ready to knock the dust off those skis and backpacks and get back up on the mountains and slopes with your fellow American Legion members. For those who like activities with a slower pace, try a restful trip at one of our partner mountain resorts in your very own condo. Enjoy day hiking, golf, river rafting trips, trail rides on horseback or snowmobiling tours!

Members of the program are entitled to exclusive discounts at ski resorts, whitewater outfitters, resort lodging, sports equipment retailers and manufacturers, only with a current CALA membership. Eligibility limited to American Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members only.

Visit [www.coloradolegionadventures.org](http://www.coloradolegionadventures.org) for full details and remember...Be Proud, Be Involved, and HAVE FUN!!!



## Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209

The Sons of The American Legion (SAL) is 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 if you are a male descendant of an 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.

Dues for the SAL are \$20.00 per year and eligibility for membership begins the day they are born.

The Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Colorado has 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.

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



## Cub Pack 24 News John Brown

American Legion Post 209 is proud sponsors of two Cub Scout packs. Pack 24 registered with 28 scouts this year, up from 19 scouts last year. Our new Pack 386 registered with 62 scouts as of 31 Jan 2010 and is now meeting at our post home on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays each month. The 2<sup>nd</sup> is the committee meeting in which we had 16 adults attending and our first meeting of all the scouts in the pack will be in March due to the Blue and Gold dinner in Feb. For those who do not know about the Blue and Gold dinner, it is to celebrate the birthday of Scouting. 2010 is a special year since it is the 199 anniversary of scouting in America. The celebration will continue throughout the year with different events at all levels of Scouting.

We are looking for people to help out with the upcoming pinewood derby for both packs. Pack 24 will hold their competition at West Middle School on the west side on 6 Mar from 1000 to 1400. We need about 3 more volunteer judges for this event. Pack 386 will be holding their pinewood derby on 13 Mar at the Holy Apostle Church on the east side from 1300 to 1500. The judges will be looking at the cars for style, color, speed, uniqueness and other items. It is a fun event to see all this youthfulness in one place. Please help support the youth for the American Legion. Call me if you would like to help.

*Happy  
St Patrick's Day!*



### St Patrick's Day Corned beef and Cabbage Dinner

All Irishmen and women either by birth or just for a day are invited to enjoy a meal of corned beef and cabbage dinner served at 6:30 p.m.

Come on down to the Post and enjoy a Meal of corned beef and cabbage.

The cost for the meal will be \$10.00 per person. Be Irish for a day and have a fine evening or comradeship.

We are planning for 50 people to attend the dinner. First come first served.

## Annual Reporting

When we were chartered as a Veterans Organization by Congress, one of the provisions was that every year the American Legion would report on what the organization achieved during the year.

As a result, in April the Post must provide the Annual Report to the Department of Colorado for consolidation and sent to National.

The National Commander presents this report yearly when he briefs Congress on our achievements and our concerns as expressed through resolutions.

The report should list everything our members did in support of Americanism and Children and Youth activities throughout the year. The list should contain the dates and the amount of time we spent supporting the activity. Meetings in other Veteran and Fraternal organizations in support of veterans and their families, whether on active duty or out of the military should be captured as well. This report should not only show the date, but also include the activities, the mileage, hours spent performing this task and if you expended any monies in support of the activity.

Ideally this report would be turned in every month when our members attend the general membership meeting or it could be emailed to the Post for consolidation.

If there is a question as to whether or not it could or should be reported, list it and let us figure out whether it applies.

There is a report form we use, and it is available on our web page on the "Local News" link.

I am asking everyone to take some time and report the activities you've supported and submit it to the post so we make file a comprehensive report. After helping us identify your initial activities, I strongly recommend and request you keep the form close by and fill it out monthly or as often as you have something to report and send it frequently.

If you need more information, please call Larry Johnson at 719-622-0344 and if necessary leave a message. I will get back with you.



From the Adjutant  
Larry L Johnson

As you can see by reading this newsletter, there are a lot of things going on for the upcoming months.

We will be having entertainment on 6 March for the American Legion Birthday Dinner. I hope everyone is making plans on attending.

As you know, if you have been following our newsletters we blasted through the Dep't membership goal of 325 members for the Legion year 2010. Matter of fact our membership is currently 464, which puts us at 120 percent of membership. The all time high for the Post is 525 members, which was back in 1991. We are 62 members away from surpassing the all time high. With all of us working together we can surpass this goal and keep on going as we do so.

Please ask your neighbors, friends, co-workers, church members and everyone you know that served on active duty during a period of conflict to become a member of The American Legion and your Post. It will be nice to sit in front of the whole Department at the Department Convention in June.

I am looking for someone who would be willing to come look at my sprinkler system towards the end of March. In addition, I am looking for someone who can put together a covered patio for my house.

I know that if you are a skilled carpenter, plumber, electrician, wood worker etc that there could be a possibility that your services could be used by other members of the Post. The problem we have is that we do not know who you are. If you do have a skill that someone might be in need of and would like to have your name and telephone number provided to these members please contact the Post. We would like to start a list that we could provide to our members.

Next month I ask you to check the Post's web page as I will have the duties of the Officers as published in the manual of ceremonies and officers guide posted. That way you can see what you would be getting yourself into if you would like to run for an office or serve on a committee that would be helping your Post grow. We can use your help and experience. See you next month at the General Membership Meeting.

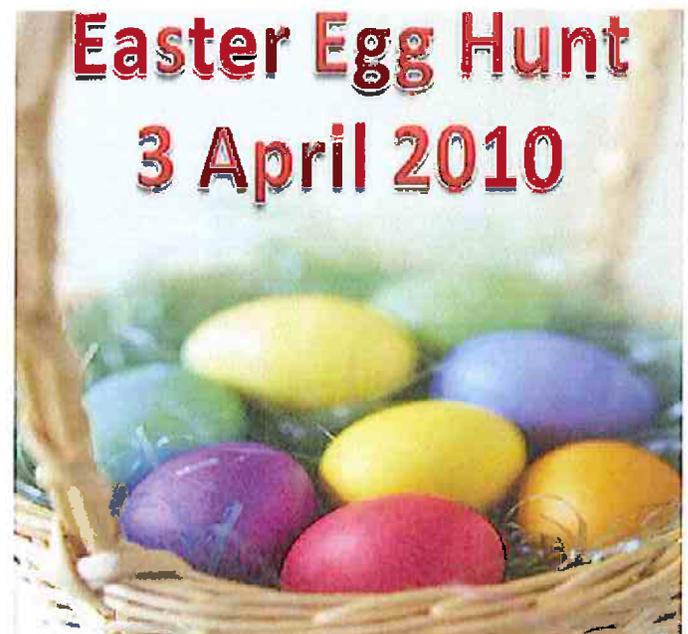
## WWII - Korean War Veterans

The Peak Grill Restaurant, on the 2nd Tuesday of each month between 11:00 a.m. to 2 p.m., invites you to come and enjoy a reduced meal while talking with friends and fellow veterans of World War II and the Korean War. There is no special dress, however, it is encouraged that you wear your uniform (if it hasn't shrunk from being stored). These special Veterans are invited to attend and share interesting stories about their war experience.

If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Jesse Boyd at 719-209-4970 or you can call the restaurant at 719-260-6905.

The location for the restaurant is 4423 Centennial Boulevard, Colorado Springs, Co 80907 (located off of Garden of the Gods).

If you attend let us know what you think and if you would recommend it to other veterans from the same time period.



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
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