



The Centennial

March 2025

AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209

Happy 106th Birthday to The American Legion! 15 March, 2025

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The American Legion Post 209 Officers 2024-2025

Commander:	Steve Hayes	(719) 494-7166
Adjutant:	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	(719) 244-3535
Sr. Vice Commander:	Jerry Hopper	(918) 953-9980
Jr. Vice Commander:	Bobby Senter	(719) 660-3775
Finance Officer:	Jeff Heischman	(719) 482-4357
Service Officer:	Brian Murphy	(719) 930-4147
Judge Advocate:	Stan Hamamoto	(719) 322-6959
Historian:	Kurt Skinner	(719) 963-3517
Exec. Committeeman:	Lino Calica	(719) 963-0956
Chaplain:	Jim Bird	(719) 231-4928
Immediate Past CDR:	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	(719) 244-3535
Sgtat-Arms:	Chris Roebuck	(719) 412-3145



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers 2024-2025

President: Vice President:

 Secretary:
 Pat Weaver
 (719) 638-4763

 Treasurer:
 Kellie Hayes
 (719) 494-7167

 Chaplain:
 Pricilla O'Donnell
 (719) 290-9130

 Exec.-at-Large:
 Jackie Bowen
 (901) 481-0673

 Historian:
 Sean Cope
 (719) 246-4820

Sgt-at-Arms: Monalisa Taylor <u>monalisahugo@gmail.com</u>

Sons of The American Legion Squadron 2024-2025

Commander:	Chris Hollingsworth	(910) 364-1677
Adjutant:	Jim Bird	(719) 231-4928
Sr. Vice Commander:	Rob Barry	(719) 930-5725
Jr. Vice Commander:	Jeff Heischman	(719) 482-4357
Finance Officer:	Ken Taylor	(719) 461-4047
Chaplain:	Bob "Odie" O'Donnell	(719) 432-6018

Sgt-at-Arms: Chris Roebuck (719) 412-3145 **Executive Committeeman:** Brian Wess (719) 528-6672 (home)



American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers 2024-2025

Director:	Lorenzo Trotter	(719) 964-5925
Vice Director:	George Sedlack	(719) 320-2487
Secretary:	Rick Feliciano	(719) 291-4955
Treasurer:	Kellie Hayes	(719) 494-7167
Sgt-at-Arms:	Lenzie Jeter	(719) 367-3383
Road Captain:	Scott Laudan	(719) 238-2679

Logistics:

Communications: ()
Chaplain: ()





From the Desk of Our Commander

Spring is coming!!! After an unusually warm December, we've experienced an equally unusual cold January and February. I know everyone is anxious for warmer weather and sunnier skies. Hang in there!

Be sure to attend the March 8 breakfast and meeting. If you've joined the Post within the last year or were never formally initiated into The American Legion regardless of how long ago you joined, we will be conducting an initiation ceremony at the March meeting. In addition, we will be conducting a Post Everlasting ceremony for all our members who have passed away over the last year. Please attend to help welcome initiates and remember our fellow members who have traveled on.

We had several folks join us for the Superbowl at the Post and it was a great time for all. I am looking forward to the opportunity to have similar events in the future at the Post, whether it be shared movie nights with the Post family, sporting events, or other creative activities that members can think of. Our Post home is for the enjoyment of the membership – let's get the most out of it!

Reminder that April is election month for the Post. Elections will be held for Legion, Auxiliary and SAL. If you are looking to get involved, let your Post, Unit or Squadron leadership know!

See you at the Post!

Can't make it to the Post for the monthly meeting? You can still participate!!! Obviously, we'd MUCH prefer your attendance in person, but we know there are times when that's not possible due to conflicts, illness or travel. This way, you can still stay connected to what is happening at our Post and in our community. Just keep in mind you won't get to eat our delicious breakfast through Zoom!

To virtually access a monthly meeting conducted in the main meeting room, go to web link: https://us05web.zoom.us/j/85019977840?pwd=Kjb6mwNLRAjqzqUIVut8DHERIH0UXD.1

- Dial In: 719-359-4580; Phone or Zoom App Meeting ID: 850 1997 7840, Passcode: 448593

This link is new, so make sure you don't use an old link to join the meeting!

Steve Hayes
Post Commander





Important Membership Message

Please check your membership card. If your card shows 2024, the grace period for renewal ended 1 Feb and you are no longer current for American Legion membership. We currently have 295 individuals in this status. The Post is currently at 81.5% with 200 memberships to go to meet our annual goal. Please let us know if you need assistance with your renewal. You can renew online, by mail with check or in person at the post. The adjutant is usually in the office on Mondays between 10 and 2pm or he can accept it in person at Friday dinners or the Second Saturday membership meeting. Online renewals at national are available at his link: https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Renew#legion-org





From Our Adjutant

The Consolidated Post Report (CPR) was established for Posts to document external activities, such as volunteer and fundraising efforts, funeral honors, and youth programs. This information is used when the National Commander makes their report to Congress.

Where I need your help to complete the CPR is any volunteer time and money you have donated over the past year. This doesn't just mean time and money spent with the post but even with other organizations. Some of the areas on the CPR are VA&R (Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation), National Security, Americanism, and Community Service Hours. Some examples of Legion programs are like donating blood, Boys State, Legion baseball, Honor Guard, etc. They can also be for things you do not do just for the Legion; such as Toy Runs, volunteering at church, Veterans Stand Down, roadside cleanup, Vets4Vets runs, museum docent, flying your flag, etc. To assist with this, I will send out a tracking sheet in the next 411. It is an easy way for you to track and report your activities, and for me to consolidate all the activities. Please watch for it and use it. If you do not know which block to check, I can do that for you if you give the activity a good description. The key is to just report it, no matter how small or if you think it matters. The reporting period is 1 June 2022 through 31 May, but I must submit it in the first week of June, so please get it to me as soon as you have completed your activities for the year so that I have time to compile all the data. The American Legion as a whole is really bad about reporting all the good we do.

We will be having an American Legion Initiation Ceremony this month at the General Membership meeting. If you have never gone through the ceremony, please plan to attend the meeting; it doesn't matter how long you have been a member. We will also be having a Post Everlasting ceremony at the meeting for all of our members that have passed on over this last year.

Lastly; if you have not renewed your membership for 2025, it expired on December 31st. I am in the office on most Mondays from 9:30-2:00. If you want to come by and talk with me or bring your renewal to the Post, you can do so at that time or see me at one of the Friday dinners.

Thanks for all you do to help Veterans and the Post.

Marvin Weaver, Gr.
Post 209 Adjutant





From our Post Historian

Operation Rolling Thunder began on 2 March 1965. American aircrews dropped over 643,000 tons of bombs on North Vietnam during the operation, which lasted through October 1968.



Call us at (719) 599-8624 if you need help Veterans Crisis Line 988, prompt 1 or text 838255

On 3 March 1776, long before the storming of "the shores of Tripoli," the first amphibious landings in Marine Corps history occurred when 220 American Continental Marines stormed the shores of British-controlled New Providence Island in the Bahamas.

Signed into law by President Hoover on 3 March 1931, Star-Spangled Banner" became the official National Anthem of the United States of America.

On 6 March 1836, after 13 days of fighting, the 182 defenders of the Alamo Mission in San Antonio were by an overwhelming Mexican force of 6000 troops, led Generalissimo Santa Anna. "Remember the Alamo" became the inspirational battle cry for Texas independence, though later generations of Tennesseans have still never forgiven the state of for unnecessarily involving Tennessee native son, Crockett, in the forlorn defense of the Alamo.



"The

killed by

Texas Davy

Code-named "Operation Meetinghouse," the American B-29 firebombing of Tokyo on 10 March 1945, was the most destructive single air attack in history, destroying 16 square miles of the city and killing over 100,000 Japanese civilians.

On 11 March 1942, General Douglas MacArthur promising "I shall return," personally retreated from the Philippines shortly before the Japanese invasion of the islands, leaving behind 90,000 American and Filipino troops at Corregidor and the Bataan Peninsula. Over 7000 of those captured forces died during the subsequent "Bataan death march" in April 1942, while MacArthur was awarded the Medal of Honor for his "defense" of the Philippines. Only one-third of the men MacArthur left behind survived to see the American recapture of the Philippines.

The name "The American Legion" was proposed and a temporary Constitution was adopted at the 1919 Paris Caucus, which convened on 15 March. This first organizing caucus of The American Legion consisted of about

1000 officers and enlisted men of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) still in France at the end of the Great War.

The U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, Operation Iraqi Freedom, began on 20 March 2003 with the goal of terminating the dictatorial regime of Saddam Hussein and eliminating Iraq's suspected weapons of mass destruction (WMDs).

25 March is designated as National Medal of Honor Day in recognition first Medals of Honor awarded on 25 March 1863 to six Union soldiers their daring commando raid on Confederate forces.



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Kurt Skinner Post Historian







From Our Auxiliary

For those of you who don't know, Unit 209 and District 7 President Royce Hopper tendered her resignation. I know it was a difficult decision for her, but family must come first, and her focus has rightfully shifted to caretaker and their very near future move to Montana. I am confident I speak for all American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 and District 7 members in wishing President Royce well and God Speed as she and Jerry starts another chapter in their life. Thank you, Royce for your years of service and friendship to the entire Post 209 family.

Proudly serving our Veterans and our Youth.

Jackie Bowen
Executive at Large



From our Auxiliary Election Committee

Let me introduce your Unit's election committee; Jackie Bowen, jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com, Cathy Barger catbarger68@outlook.com, and Fran Worthington bfnworthington@aol.com. If you would like to run for any of the officer positions listed below let one of the committee members know. Also, please send an email to Jackie stating, "If elected to the position of _______ I will accept." This in case something comes up and you can't attend the meeting in April when elections are held.

In March we will be taking nominations for all Officer positions. Below is a list of Officer positions and a short description of the position:

President – to conduct meetings of the Unit and Unit Executive committee

Vice-President – assist the President and in the absence of the President, perform those duties

Secretary – record/publish all proceedings and maintain those recordings

Treasurer – receive and disperse 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 those reports to Department

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



Post 209 Nominations for Officer positions

We need candidates to fill Post officers' positions for the 2025 – 2026 year. All positions are open but there are a few running for re-election. These are the positions that are wide open: Adjutant, Sr. Vice Commander, Jr. Vice Commander, Historian, and Chaplain. If anyone is interested in filling one of these positions, please contact Stanley Hamamoto at pastorstan41228@gmail.com, Marvin Weaver at weavermr@q.com, or Jeff Heischman at jeffheman@netzero.net. Tell them what position you are interested in, your full name, and telephone number.



Call us at (719) 599-8624 if you need help Veterans Crisis Line 988, prompt 1 or text 838255

American Legion Post 209 has many members who have been in these position in the past and they are always there to help you when asked. Even the current members who now fill these positions will gladly help you when asked.

For your convenience, here's a short description of all officer positions:

Commander: You are entrusted with supervising the duties of all other officers of the Post. You are the presiding officer at all meetings, and you must familiarize yourself with the policies and traditions of your Post and The American Legion.

Adjutant: Also known as the "First Sergeant." You are the Secretary of the Post. Post activities will revolve around you. The Adjutant is the Post personnel officer; maintains membership records, and minutes of meetings, checks up, and assists with the work of the other officers and Committees. In addition, you publish official orders, announcements, and instructions.

Senior Vice Commander: Your primary role is membership. No Post can survive without a strong membership. You should be familiar with ceremonial protocols for regular meetings. A Vice Commander must be ready to fill in for the Commander upon a moment's notice.

Junior Vice Commander: You must be ready to promote your Post. The Commander will depend on you to provide programs that spice up the meetings and attract attendance. You should contact other veteran and civic organizations so that each patriotic holiday and observance receives the attention it deserves. You are concerned with the pageantry of The American Legion. You should also be concerned with the welfare of all fellow veterans and Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation Committees.

Finance Officer: You will serve as chair of the Finance Committee and will be responsible for receiving and disbursing Post funds. You will work closely with the Post Adjutant in all matters related to the finances of your Post.

Service Officer: You should be a dedicated person with a deep interest in fellow veterans, the Post, and the community. You are responsible for bringing to the attention of all veterans and their dependents the rights and benefits granted by law. You must know how to utilize the expert services available through Legion channels and local agencies. You should be ready to visit dependents upon a service member's death. You may be called upon to serve as chair of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee, working with children and youth committees, or making hospital visitations and appointed by the Commander-elect.

Chaplain: You must be a person capable of moral and intellectual leadership. You work closely with all other Officers of the Post. You should attend all meetings of the Post and Executive Committee. When requested, you should be ready to officiate at the funerals of members. The Chaplain must also be prepared to serve the bereaved families of Post members.

Sergeant-at-Arms: You should know how to arrange the meeting hall and assist the Post Commander and Adjutant. You are the custodian of the Colors and in charge of Colors details during presentation and retirement ceremonies. You should know how to display flags and their proper presentation. You are also responsible for maintaining order at all meetings.



Call us at (719) 599-8624 if you need help Veterans Crisis Line 988, prompt 1 or text 838255

Historian: You are responsible for preserving and compiling our Post's records/photos (specifically through our Scrapbook and website). It would help if you tried to attend Department Conventions and keep in touch with other Post Historians. [You are only encouraged to attend, not required.]

Post Executive Committeeman: You are a voting member of the Post Executive Committee and are entrusted with the government and management of the Post. You shall be responsible for representing the interests of the general membership to the Executive Committee.

Judge Advocate: You provide professional advice in conducting Post business or assist in procuring proper counsel. You are the interpreter of the Constitution and By-Laws of our Post. You may be asked to assist in auditing Post financial accounts, appointed by the Commander-elect.

More information about these positions can be found in the 2024 Officers Guide, beginning on page 7. A copy can be downloaded from the Legion.org website. Just search for Publications and select the 2024 Officer's Guide. https://www.legion.org/information-center/in-the-media/publications/organization-membership-awards



Salty Dog

FLIGHT DECK:

Modern US Navy aircraft carrier air operations include the operation of fixed-wing and rotary aircraft on and around aircraft carriers for performance of combat or noncombat missions. On an aircraft flight deck, specialized crews are employed for the different roles utilized in managing air operations. Everyone associated with the flight deck has a specific job, which is indicated by the color of their deck jersey, float coat and helmet. Operations on the flight deck are fast paced and in close quarters.





Marvin Weaver, Gr.
Post 209 Adjutant







Happy St. Patrick's Day! 17 March, 2025



Bringing A Little South to the West

I am constantly amazed at the game choices kids today have. From two years old right up to the time they leave home (30-something ©), they have an endless choice of games to play, most of which keeps them indoors and glued to the TV or some Game Console.

Growing up in the south and in the 60's, almost all the games we played were outdoors. We had Stick Horses, sports consisting of Football and Baseball if we could get enough kids together. One year Dad made us stilts. They were very cool and it only took us less than a day to master walking with them. They were only a foot or so off the ground, but we felt like giants walking around the yard and neighborhood.

The only inside games we had were board games like Monopoly. But, we'd rather go outside and play cowboys and Indians, or football, than to sit in the house. The options outside were endless and we could get into a little mischief much easier outside.

And outside we could play much longer. At night, if we were indoors, we were pretty much relegated to watching TV, and there was only one person who controlled what we watched; Dad! So, most of the time we'd stay outside until it was time to come in, take a bath and get ready to go to bed.

I think kids these days are really missing out on a great part of growing up. While they are much more technology savvy than most of us today, they lose out on the many benefits of outdoor fun. Until you've played Kick the Can, or Red Rover, or gotten dirt and mud on your bare feet and between your toes, you don't know what you're missing out on as a kid.

Now, where did I put my pogo stick?

Jay Bewen
Past Commander







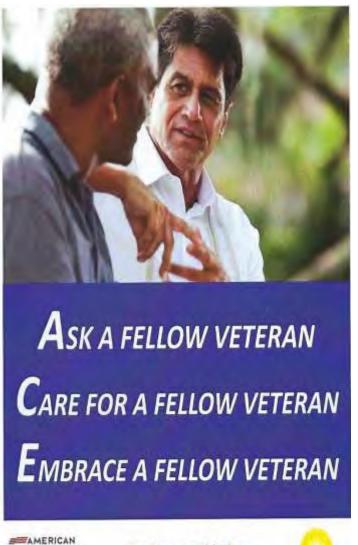
Don't Forget to "Spring" Forward
Daylight Saving's Time
9 March, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS



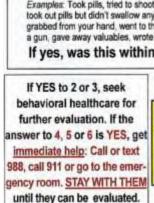


Tips for Confronting a Veteran in Crisis!





LEGION



Download Columbia Protocol App



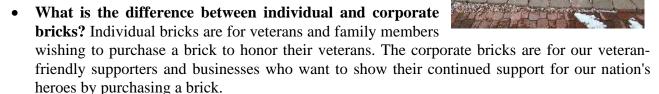


Always ask questions 1 and 2.	Past	Month	
Have you wished you were dead or wished you could go to sleep and not wake up?			
Have you actually had any thoughts about killing yourself?			
If YES to 2, ask questions 3, 4, 5 and 6. If NO to 2, skip to question 6.			
Have you been thinking about how you might do this?			
Have you had these thoughts and had some intention of acting on them?		High Risk	
5) Have you started to work out or worked out the details of how to kill yourself? Did you intend to carry out this plan?		High Risk	
Always Ask Question 6	Life- time	Past 3 Months	
6) Have you done anything, started to do anything, or prepared to do anything to end your life? Examples: Took pills, tried to shoot yourself, cut yourself, tried to hang yourself, took out pills but didn't swallow any, held a gun but changed your mind or it was grabbed from your hand, went to the roof but didn't jump, collected pills, obtained a gun, gave away valuables, wrote a will or suicide note, etc. If yes, was this within the past 3 months?		High Risk	

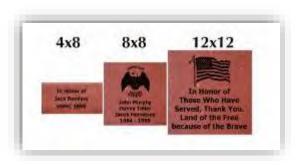


Walk of Honor

- What are the costs for the individual bricks? Prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering desired but typically range from \$75 to \$200, depending on size.
- What are the costs for the corporate/veteran supporter bricks? Again, prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering but typically range from \$125 to \$500.



- Is the brick purchase restricted to members of the Post 209 families? No. We encourage members to buy a brick for themselves for their veteran loved ones or to show their support for our veterans.
- Where do I go to buy a brick? We have a link on our website. Just visit legion209.org and click on "Walk of Honor." Or, you can visit http://polarengraving.com/ALPost209 to buy your brick. The site is user-friendly and will walk you through the design and purchase. In addition, you will see a preview of your brick before finalizing the purchase.
- **How do I pay for the brick?** We have the site set up to accept payment via PayPal or check. PayPal is an extremely safe way to purchase a brick, and you don't need a PayPal account to use it.
- Where will the brick be shipped? All bricks will be sent to the post. We will notify you when it arrives, and you are welcome to stop by and see the brick you have purchased.
- What will become of my brick? It will be placed near the flagpole at the post in the area we call the Walk of Honor.
- How long will this fundraiser effort last? We plan to continue selling bricks until the Walk of Honor is covered with personalized bricks.
- Will I have an opportunity to buy a brick later? Quite possibly, depending on what is decided/approved for the next phase of our project.



Order your brick(s) now to ensure you get one in Phase One of our projects. If you buy multiple bricks, let our Adjutant know, and we will ensure they are all placed together.

Buy a brick





American Legion Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209

Host your next event with us! With over 2,500 SQFT of venue space this is the perfect location for your next social event!

Rental Features:

- 6 Hour Rental
- In House Catering Available*
- Fully Stocked Bar*
- Muti-Room Sound System
- Dance Floor with Lighting

If you and your family are looking for an affordable option for a wedding, corporate event, retirement party, or any other event, we here at The American Legion Post 209 are ready to assist you in all your event planning needs.







PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

Young Guns



NRA-Accredited members of Sons of The American Legion are sponsors and instructors for the Young Guns program. This basic rifle safety and marksmanship course are offered to boys and girls ages 10-18. Shooting is indoors, using air rifles.

https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionCentennialPost209/

Scouting Programs

The Post 209 family is the charter partner with the following Boy Scouts of America (BSA) units:



- Cub Scout Pack 24 (Boys and Girls): p24@legion209.org
- Cub Scout Pack 26 (Boys and Girls): p26@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 77 (Girls): t77@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 79 (Boys): t79@legion209.org
- Venture Crew 762 (Young men and women ages 14-20): c762@legion209.org

Boys and Girls State





Boys State and Girls State are for high school juniors going into their senior year with at least one semester left.

- BOYS STATE www.colegionboysstate.org/
- GIRLS STATE www.alacolorado.org/girls-state

Oratorical Contest



This Nationwide contest is designed to develop a more profound knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students.

www.colegionoratorical.org

Eagle Scout of the Year



The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year nomination window is from 1 **November to 1 March**. Nomination packets must be received by each applicant's respective The American Legion department (state) headquarters no later than 1 March.

https://legion209.org/Scouting/



MARCH 2025

For the most current version see: https://www.legion209.org/coming_up/

	March 2025					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						Honor Bell Meeting 10:00am
2	3 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	4	4:45pm-8:00pm	6 Exec. Cmttee Mtg 6:00pm Young Guns 6:15pm Venture Crew 7:00pm	7 Price Depends on Menu Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm RSVP Required!	8 Int'l. Women's Day Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00
9 Day light Savings Time	10 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	Honor Gd. Trng 6:00pm Healing Warriors! 9:00am-4:30pm	Marksmanship 4:45pm-8:00pm	Young Guns 6:15pm Venture Crew 7:00pm	SAL Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required!	American Legion Birthday! 106 Years Old!
16	17 St Patrick's Day Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm. Healing Warriors! 9:00am-4:30pm	Marksmanship 4:45pm-8:00pm	20 Start of Spring Young Guns 6:15pm Venture Crew 7:00pm	Chicken Fried Chicken 6:00pm RSVP Required!	22
23	24 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	25 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30/ALR 6:45 Healing Warriors! 9am-4:30pm	4:45pm-8:00pm	Young Guns 6:15pm Venture Crew 7:00pm	ALA Dinner Papa Murphy's Pizza/Salad 6:00pm RSVP Required!	29
30	31 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	Notes: Notes: At our General Membersh	,			mony.

APRIL 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Healing Warriors! 9:00am-4:30pm	2	3 Exec. Cmttee Mtg	Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm RSVP Required!	Honor Bell Meeting
6	7 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	8 Healing Warriors! 9:00am-4:30pm Honor Gd. Trng 6:00pm	9 Marksmanship 4:45pm-8:00pm	10 Young Guns 6:15pm	11 \$20/Person Luau Fundraising Dinner! 6:00pm RSVP Required!	12 ELECTIONS! Membership Meeting
13	14 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	Healing Warriors! 9:00am-4:30pm ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm.	16	17 Holy Thursday Venture Crew 7:00pm	\$12/Person ALR Fish Fry 6:00pm RSVP Required!	Easter Egg Hunt 3:00pm-5:00pm
20 Easter	21 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	22 Earth Day Healing Warriors! 9am-4:30pm ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30/ALR 6:45	23	Venture Crew 7:00pm	ALA Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required!	26
27	28 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	Healing Warriors! 9:00am-4:30pm	30	Notes:		