

The Centennial



VOLUME 26 EDITION 4

APRIL 2012

Mail: P.O. Box 25334, Colorado Springs, Co 80936-5334

Post: 3613 Jeannine Dr., Colorado Springs, Co 80917-8002,

Telephone 719-599-8624

Email: centennialtwozeronine@yahoo.com

Web site www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org



From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Jay Bowen

My darling wife of 40 years occasionally accuses me of being a procrastinator. And when she makes that reference, she does it in a tone that makes me believe it is not a complimentary assessment.

I guess I just don't understand. How did this word become associated with something negative? Jackie would tell you that the "early bird gets the worm," but I would suggest the early worm gets eaten! Had the worm waited a little while longer, the bird would have possibly found other food and left before the worm crawled out of their underground home. It's the same with the old adage, "If you wait until the last minute to do something, it only takes a minute to get it done." How is that a bad thing? It sounds to me like that is just good time management.

According to www.dictionary.com the word procrastination means "the act or habit of putting off or delaying." As with many things, if we break the word down, we can better understand it. "Pro" means a proponent of an issue. That's not a negative term. That's very positive. It means someone is in favor of getting something done, even if the something is doing nothing. "Crastination" is an obsolete word that means putting off until tomorrow. So, procrastination must mean someone that is a major proponent of waiting until later or tomorrow. That could also mean they are taking time to assess the situation so they can make an informed decision. This could be related to the old Popeye cartoon character Wimpy, who made famous the line, "I'll gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today!" I wonder if anyone found Wimpy on Tuesday.



I believe being called a procrastinator is an attribute that should be celebrated. To me it means you are listening to what has been stated or asked and prior to jumping to conclusions or reacting foolishly to undertake a task that may result in doing something wrong, you are considering all alternatives and viewpoints to ensure your response is the best one for the action. Granted, most of the time the viewpoints about my decision to wait on a request come from the same source (Jackie) so I don't know how much differing information is received. For example, I can't tell you how many times I was told the bushes and trees needed to be trimmed. After some assessment and study, I decided to respond appropriately. Now my yard is neatly trimmed. Had I reacted upon Jackie's first request, who knows what would have happened? There may have been time for the bushes and tree limbs to grow back and become unsightly or a branch may have fallen on my head because I wasn't mentally prepared for the task at hand.

Yes, procrastination is a good thing, but it has taken a bad reputation hit. I really believe it is time someone takes a stand against how this term is thrown around in a derogatory manner. Someone needs to educate the masses on the goodness of waiting and assessing before leaping. And one of these days soon I plan to do just that.

Oh by the way, are you procrastinating on visiting the Post and getting involved in some of our activities? Come on down to your Post home! We are having Post elections this month. Now's the time to get active. You've put it off long enough! Let's "git 'er done!"

For God and Country,
Jay



Auxiliary President Jackie Bowen

We had a great turnout for our Initiation Ceremony. If I must say so myself, I thought it was very nice. I would like to thank Linda O'Riley and Lynn Thomas for helping conduct the ceremony and I would also like to thank all our members that were initiated.

Welcome to our FIVE new members: Joyce Taylor, wife of Legionnaire Ken Taylor; Carolynne Cross, wife of Legionnaire Donald Cross; Margie Roth transferred from Nebraska; Connie Morgan transferred from Kentucky; and Elaine Varner, wife of Legionnaire Chip Varner.

How many of you know the history of the American Legion Auxiliary? Here is an excerpt from the National American Legion Auxiliary, "Founded in 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary is the world's largest patriotic women's service organization. With a membership at nearly 850,000, local American Legion Auxiliary units have a strong presence in more than 9,500 communities nationwide. The American Legion Auxiliary's mission is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security." To learn more about the Auxiliary please visit the web site at www.alaforveterans.org.

I would like to thank all of you for putting your trust in me these past 5 years. As stated in our last newsletter it is once again time to elect officers. If you are interested in becoming an officer, or would like to know more about the duties of an office, please contact any of your presiding officers. Our contact information is listed in the newsletter.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly,
Jackie Bowen



Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209 Frank Maellaro

If your membership in the Sons of The American Legion has expired, you can still pay 2012 dues by writing out a check or money order made out to Squadron 209 for \$20 and mailing it American Legion Post 209, P.O. 25334, Colorado Springs. Or you can go to the Post website and renew through PayPal.

I look forward to meeting you at the meeting in April.

If you have questions or would like more information please call the Post and leave a message.

Thank you Frank



National Commander Fang Wong is visiting Colorado and the Post will be sponsoring a luncheon in his honor on 4 April at 1:30 pm.

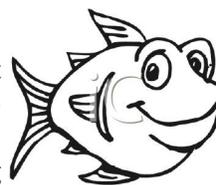
At this time we do not know what the meal will be but once again it is free to those who wish to meet the National Commander and listen to what his message is.

We are asking everyone to make reservations by calling Jackie at (719) 574-1223, or by calling Lynn at (719) 439-6268 so we can insure that once again we have enough food for those in attendance.

Lets have a good crowd so he can see that we are supporting him.

Fish Fry Friday

Do not forget to make your reservations for the Fish fry that is every month. This month we will also feature a Silent Auction during the Fish Fry. We hope to see all of you there.



held on 4th Friday of
Please call Jackie
719-574-1223 or
as at 719-439-6268
know how many will
with you for dinner.



Post Officers 2011-2012

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Jay Bowen	719-574-1223
Sr. Vice Cdr	Mark Krzeczowski	719-282-1380
Jr. Vice Cdr	Lyle Hagelberg	719-594-4039
Adjutant	Larry Johnson	719-622-0344
Finance Officer	Norman Moyer	719-392-3725
Chaplain	Chet Dean	719-244-2442
Sergeant-at-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Historian	Mario Taracena	719-638-1258
Post Executive Committee member	Neal Thomas	719-392-1510
Service Officer	John Brown	719-331-8160
Judge Advocate	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Past Commander	Bill Marshall	719-495-0088
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610

Post Email: americanlegionpost209@yahoo.com

Web Site: www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org



Auxiliary Officers 2010-2011

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



Board of Trustees 2011-2012

Term (Years)	Name	Telephone
President (1 yr)	Neal Thomas	719-392-1510
Commander (1 yr)	Jay Bowen	719-574-1223
Finance Officer (1 yr)	Norman Moyer	719-392-3725
Member 1 Yr	Larry Johnson	719-322-0644
Member 1 Yr	Alton Cyriaque	719-495-4732
Member 3 yr	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Member 3 yr	Bill Marshall	719-495-0088



Son's of The American Legion 2011-2012

Commander	Frank Maellaro Sr.	
Adjutant	Frank Anderson	
Finance Officer	Ken Taylor	
Chaplain	Chet Dean	719-244-2442



Centennial 209 Family Calendar of Events

1 Apr	Guess Whose Birthday
4 Apr	National commander Luncheon 1:30pm
5 Apr	Post Executive Committee Mtg 6:30pm
6 Apr	Hamdogger WingDing Dinner 6:30pm
7 Apr	Easter Egg Hunt 2:00pm
14 Apr	Breakfast 9:00am General Meeting 10:00am ELECTION of OFFICERS
20 Apr	Steak Night 6:30pm
27 Apr	Fish Fry 6:30pm
3 May	Post Executive Committee Mtg 6:30pm
4 May	Hamdogger WingDing Dinner 6:30pm
5 May	Gun Show/Membership Booth 9:00am
12 May	No Breakfast — No Meeting Installation of Officers 5:00pm Banquet 6:00pm
18 May	Steak Night 6:30pm Legion College at Post 38
19 May	Legion college Post 38
20 May	District 7 Convention 12:00pm Palmer Lake Post 9-11 (THE DEPOT)
25 May	Fish Fry 6:30pm
28 May	Memorial Day (PLEASE BE SAFE)
1 Jun	Hamdogger WingDing Dinner 6:30pm
7 Jun	Post Executive Committee Mtg 6:30pm
9 Jun	Breakfast 9:00am General Meetings 10:00am
10 Jun	Flag Retirement Ceremony 2:00pm
14 Jun	Army Birthday Celebration 6:30pm
15 Jun	Steak Night 6:30pm
22 Jun	Fish Fry 6:30pm
28 Jun - 1 Jul	Department Convention — Grand Junction. Get your reservations in

How Does The American Legion Function?

In an earlier article I explained the reason for the different color of American Legion Caps and their significance of offices held. There are other significant and unique differences that occur within the organization as well. Unique is the fact that National Commanders and the National Vice Commanders are elected for only one year and are not eligible for re-election. Basically, it was designed to avoid a usurpation of power by a select group and to allow for new individuals with different perspectives to represent the organization overall. It further provided opportunities for Commanders and Vice Commanders to be elected from each Department on a rotational basis.

The agenda for each year's elected commander and staff is determined by delegates at the National Convention. The delegates at the National Convention approve or disapprove resolutions submitted by each Department. Delegates to the National Convention are apportioned to each Department by the national organization and elected by each Department at their annual Department convention. Between National Conventions, the administrative power is vested in the National Executive Committee. The National Executive Committee is composed of the National Commander, the National Vice Commanders, one National Executive Committeeman and one Alternate for each of the fifty-five departments. The term of office of such National Executive Committeemen and alternate shall be two years. Members of the National Executive Committee shall be delegates to the National Convention with vote, which vote shall be exercised with their respective Departments. The Past National Commanders are delegates to the National Executive Committee meetings but without vote. However, they are delegates to the National Convention with vote with their individual Departments.

There are several other variables that I would be happy to discuss if desired. I am open to discuss any other topic of interest regarding the National or Department organization.

For God and Country,
Neal L. Thomas, Jr.
Post Executive Committeeman

The Soldier That Never Came Home

By Mario Taracena

Billy and I were great buddies. At the end of our college freshman year we took a summer job in California. Since the money was good, we stayed for the fall. When we went back to Provo, Utah for the Winter Quarter, we both received a very official looking envelope. The letter inside read: "Greetings from the President of the United States..."

After our Army training and schooling, we received our orders. I was assigned to USAREUR, Germany. Billy was assigned to USAPAC, Vietnam.

We corresponded whenever possible. Eventually, Billy ended up at IV Corps Military Region 4, the southern part of Vietnam, or Mekong Delta where half of the population lived. Billy was a very patriotic guy, and realized that despite the increased economic and military assistance South Vietnam was unable to cope with the Viet Cong. The struggle took a new face when the Vietcong started infiltrating the Mekong Delta River and tributaries where 70% of the country's rice was produced. Soon Billy and his unit were deployed to patrol, cut and disrupt enemy supply lines in a joint operation with the Navy. They were cruising waterways and canals in Alpha Boats equipped with underwater steel plates to withstand explosions in the mine infested waters.

In one of his letters Billy wrote: "We never knew when something was going to happen. Some places were so narrow and thick with jungle, we couldn't see at all. Without warning, snipers would begin shooting at us. We would respond with our .81mm mortars and .50 Caliber machine guns." In another letter he described how the Viet Cong would fire at them from the rice paddies or marshlands using villagers as human shields. "It is awful to see innocent people dead when the smoke cleared; you just cried." Occasionally, the Alpha Boats were assigned to rescue Navy Seals. They called this "Brown Water Navy" operation.

The last time I heard from Billy, he wrote: "We just fire round after round till you go crazy, but fight we must."

Billy never came home. He paid the ultimate sacrifice for his country. His parents always kept an empty chair at the dinner table for Billy.

They passed away in 1990.



Installation of Officers Banquet

2012-2013

This month we will elect those Legionnaires and Auxiliary officers to lead us for Legion Year 2012-2013. In May, we will install the newly elected and appointed Officers and show our support for them. The Installation ceremony and dinner following will be held in place of our normal monthly membership meeting. There will NOT be a morning membership meeting in May.

We encourage you to attend the Installation of Officers for The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 and The American Legion Post 209. This event will begin at 5:00pm on 12 May with the Installation of the officers for American Legion Auxiliary followed by the Installation of Legion Post Officers. At 6:00pm, dinner will be served. We of course, are asking everyone to make their reservations by calling Jackie at (719) 574-1223, or Lynn at (719) 439-6268.

At this time the menu has not been determined and neither has the price. Knowing Art (The chef), the meal will be prepared to his normal perfection and the cost of the dinner will probably be not more than \$15.00 per person.

UMBRELLA SALES

The word has gotten out about our latest fund raiser, which is the UMBRELLA pictured to the right. We are selling the umbrellas for \$15 each. Features include:



Drip Free system to prevent water from getting on the floors and carpets.

Clear panel for easy visibility.

The money we make will assist local area Veterans and Auxiliary programs.



EASTER EGG HUNT
SATURDAY, 7 APRIL
2:00 PM



From the Chaplain Chet Dean

If you have an emergency, or are admitted to the hospital, admitted to a care facility, or need a Chaplain for any reason, you can call them directly. Sometimes if you leave a message at the Post there may be a delay with the information getting to the Chaplain.

Please feel free to call the following numbers 24 hours a day, seven days a week if it is an emergency. If it is not an emergency you can call during normal hours.

Chaplain Dean 719-244-2442
Assistant Chaplain Stebick 719-351-2574



From the Historian Mario Taracena

Good Friday and Easter

April brings a special time dear to the hearts of those who commemorate the final days of the ministry of Jesus Christ on earth. Palm Sunday starts the Holy Week; it marks the triumphal entry of Jesus to Jerusalem as the Messiah. (John 12:13) The week culminates with His resurrection celebrated on Easter Sunday, (Matt 28 1-120). The atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ made it possible for mankind to return to God's presence by overcoming sin, in other words, paying the price of the world's sins. Thus His name: The Savior, The Redeemer.

May the Lord bless you as you observe these holidays either attending church services or meditating and offering silent prayers at home.

NEWS YOU CAN USE: Do you know that if you are a disabled Veteran you can appeal to seek increased benefits? Wounded Warriors discharged between Sept 11, 2001 and Dec 31, 2009 are eligible to apply. The Physical Disability Board of Review will re-examine each case individually to determine if benefits mistakes were made during the discharge process.



**From the Senior Vice Commander
Mark Krzeczowski**

American Legion Post 209 members, we have completely shattered our membership goal for 2012. We currently have 603 members and are still growing. This accomplishment could not be possible without the dedicated Legionnaires of “The Little Post, Going Places, Doing Big Things!”

I have just completed my first year with the Post and what I enjoy most is the professional, yet relaxed and comfortable atmosphere our members have created. The Post’s most recent event was the initiation ceremony of new members followed by the American Legion Birthday dinner. This was truly a first class, fun event.

When I was a member of the 1st Cavalry Division, we had a saying, “Live the Legend.” As a member of the American Legion this saying, as was true with the First Team, really has meaning. Don’t just be a paper member, come out and join in the wonderful activities of this great Post.

RSVP Special

Make an advance reservation for Steak night and receive a special discount. With advance reservations & the coupon on this page, you get a steak at the regular price of \$12.00 and a second for \$10.00.

Please note the change for RSVPs. You can contact Jackie Bowen at (719) 574-1223 home, or jack-iebowen2005@yahoo.com. Or you can call Lynn Thomas. Her contact number is (719) 439-6268. Don’t forget to present this coupon with your order.



**STEAK NIGHT
COUPON**

BUY 1 STEAK DINNER AT REGULAR PRICE OF \$12.00 AND GET THE 2ND FOR \$10.00

GOOD ONLY DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2012 AND WITH A RESERVATION MADE IN ADVANCE



**From Scouts and Service Officer
And Scouting
John Brown**

Scouts:

Pinewood Derby for Pack 24 was a great success due in part to one of our own, Paul Brown. Paul donated the trophies for the event and several additional awards given out to the pack. I received nothing but praise for his efforts in helping the pack during this event. Thanks Paul.

On Apr 14, Pack 386 will hold their Pinewood Derby at our Post. The event will start at 1400 and last about 1 ½ to 2 hours. If you can, stop by and cheer on our cubbies in this event. Prizes will be given out for the fastest and judged events. If you are interested in judging an event stop by and talk to Gordon and he will tell you about the events. The pack will start setting up right after our general membership meeting. If you have an old pinewood derby car from your youth, bring it and run it in the open event against the new kids on the block.

As always if you need additional information or want to help let me know.

Service: Good Question:

Sharing your Service Stories

Have you ever thought about giving your personal story to the Library of Congress? If not maybe you should. “These personal historical accounts will be available to researchers, historians and the general public,” said Washington Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoske. “This is a great opportunity to ensure your stories are never lost, but instead are preserved for future generations. The Veterans History project honors our nation’s veterans for service to our country. Their stories will be preserved in the Library of Congress for future authors, historians and students of history who want to know why and how our veterans have served our country in order to preserve our freedom.”

To find out more about the Veterans History Project, and to find ways to participate, visit www.loc.gov/vets.

John Brown Service Officer Post 209



From the Adjutant Larry Johnson

In Colorado, agencies/organizations that provide help to Veterans can request grants from the Veterans trust fund, which is currently supported by money from the Tobacco Fund. The problem that all of these agencies/organizations will face in the future is a lack of funding because the Tobacco Fund will eventually run out of money.

The United Veterans Council represents all of the Veterans Organization and has unanimously approved an idea that could be used to help support Veterans in Colorado. They are proposing a Lottery scratch ticket, with the proceeds going to Veterans' trust fund in support of Veterans that need help.

I attended a meeting on 15 March that indicated that a Resolution would be presented to the State legislators asking them approve the scratch ticket Resolution so it can be placed on the November ballot for approval by the people of Colorado. We were also informed that there were many Legislators not willing to support this Resolution because of opposition from Focus on The Family and other religious organizations who believe gambling is a sin. We all recognize that they are entitled to their beliefs, but the question I have is do they have the right to force their beliefs on others?

I am not a member of Focus on the Family or the other religious groups who feel gambling is a sin. And being I am not a member, I wonder just how many Veterans are members of these religious organizations? I wonder if the Veterans of these religious groups are receiving medical/mental treatment they need. Are they receiving monetary help from these organizations?

We need your help to get this Resolution passed. We need you to call or write your Legislators and tell them that you support this Resolution and that you want them to support it also. I am asking everyone to take a moment and call or write your Legislators to let them know they need to VOTE YES when it is time to vote. Please pass this onto all of your contacts and ask them to do the same thing and see if we can get this put on the ballot for the people to decide.

If you need assistance identifying your State Legislators, contact us at the Post. We'll get their contact information.



A Message to Current and Potential SAL Squadron 209

Mark Kilstrom - Detachment Adjutant

The ability of a Post to support the programs of The American Legion can be greatly enhanced by the presence of an active and vibrant SAL Squadron. Considering all the activities that fall under the Four Pillars, it is virtually impossible to support them all.

Just as The American Legion Auxiliary is committed to support the programs and goals of The American Legion, so too is the SAL committed to "Adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands..." As taken from our Preamble, we are "Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage." An active Squadron should be doing many things, and can be a huge force multiplier when it comes to participation. Over the years, the SAL has established a prominent role in supporting Children and Youth programs, in particular The American Legion's Child Welfare Foundation, the Children's Miracle Network and Special Olympics.

A strong membership in a Squadron can lead to greater results, and the Squadron, as a Program of the Post, should be used by the Post to augment the Post's goals and objectives and can be utilized to work programs the Post just doesn't have time to do. One key factor that always has an impact in growing and developing a Squadron is strong mentoring and leadership. One of the most influential factors in this leadership comes from dual members. Those who are Legionnaires through their Service to Country have chosen to honor their forefathers and mothers by also becoming members of the SAL. A strong dual membership solidifies and in a way, ratifies the decision of a Post to charter and sponsor a Squadron. It is often said, that membership is everybody's business. So if eligible, being a dual member and signing up his or her sons and grandsons should be strongly considered. There is no minimum age to be a member of the SAL. Over the past few months, I've had the pleasure of paying several visits to Post 209. And as a dual member myself, I have been impressed with the accomplishments your Post has achieved.

I look forward to the day, hopefully soon, that Post 209 will boast the many achievements of your Squadron. To get there, they need your support, mentoring and leadership. And above all, they need membership. Help them, help you.

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

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLORADO SPGS, CO
PERMIT NO. 192

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

