

The Centennial



VOLUME 25 EDITION 6

JUNE 2011

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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Jay Bowen

At our meeting this past month, I shared with everyone in attendance our “State of the Post” and highlighted our accomplishments over the previous year. Man, we have done a tremendous amount of work in the community as well as within the Legion network. It is hard to imagine or appreciate how much we have gotten done in just a year until you sit down and make a list. We are doing so much and having a very positive impact within the Veteran community.

At our recent District 7 Convention in Canon City, I had a very interesting conversation with a fellow Legionnaire from another Post within the District. He’s a very dedicated Veteran who became active because he wanted to make a difference. He shared with me that he has recently become disheartened because the things he wants to get done to help his Post move forward is very slow in coming and he continues to encounter resistance. He also said he’s discouraged because it seems every time there is a call for help, it’s the same core group doing the work. We visited for quite a while and I will be monitoring closely to see how this unfolds.

That conversation really got me to thinking about many Posts (ours included) and other non-profit organizations around the country. There seems to be a core group of people that carry the load for the entire organization. Sadly, this almost always leads to “burn-out” and has an adverse impact on growth and what can be accomplished. Amazingly enough, it also appears that when this happens, someone else invariably will step up to carry the banner. I have witnessed this phenomenon time after time. What I can’t figure out is why the “next in line” waits until someone drops out or burns out before offering to



help. We could avoid that if we could get more people energized early and often. That would spread the work around and not require 10-15 to do the work needed by 20-25. Believe me, I know as well as anyone that it is sometimes impossible to be there. I have NEVER asked nor expected anyone to be at every function or event. Family and mental health has to take a front seat to volunteering. But I also know that there are occasions when folks are just vegetating out in front of the boob tube (myself included). It would be really helpful if every once in a while, that time could be devoted to helping out. If you’ve never done it, you will find this hard to believe, but it is fun in its own way, and extremely rewarding. The feeling you have at the end of an event knowing you were partially responsible for its success will stay with you for a long time. And the more help we have, the less work everyone has to do, which increases the fun level and extends the volunteer life of all involved. My fear is that my buddy from the Post I visited with during the Convention will drop out and may never become active again. What a loss that would be for his Post, and our District. And he is a second generation leader at the Post. His father served there as Commander several years ago. On some level, that makes it even sadder.

Let’s not go that way. Give it a shot. You can start by volunteering some time during the Department Convention 23-26 June. We’re not asking you to be there every day or for every event. But if we could get your assistance for just one of the many things we are planning to do to increase the visibility and revenue of our Post, it would help immensely. Think about it and contact Larry to get your name on the list.

For God and Country,
Jay



Auxiliary President Jackie Bowen

We have 3 new members to our Unit, Holle Wiktorek, Linda O'Riley, and Savannah Brandt. Holle is a brand new member to the Auxiliary and a hard worker, Linda O'Riley you may recognize because she is our District President transferred from Unit 5, and Savannah is a junior member and one of our Girls State delegates.

Our 2011-2012 District officers are President: Linda O'Riley, Vice President Jackie Bowen, Secretary Jolene Leno, Chaplain Harriet Moody, Sgt-at-Arms Becky (Fowler) Hall, Historian Rose Rozell, and DEC Theresa Brandt. We had 5 of the 9 Units for the District represented.

On May 14th, I attended a Memorial Service for Homeless Veterans that have passed. This was brought about through the hard work of Bunny Blaha. Bunny volunteers for Crawford House and several other organizations. Our Unit donated cookies to serve after the Memorial Service. Only a handful of people attended (probably due to weather) but you may have read about it in the Gazette on Sunday, 15 May. It would be nice if this would become an annual event. Even though the number of people attending was small, the quality of people was great; Veterans.

The Department Convention is rapidly approaching. I truly hope all of our members can attend at least one of the events at the Doubletree Hotel and at our Post home. The dates are listed on the calendar of the newsletter and on the website.

Remember to wear your Poppies on Memorial Day. You can wear them at any time but especially on Memorial and Veterans Day.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly,
Jackie Bowen

The picture to the right are the officers of The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 that were installed on 21 May 2011. These officers will assume their duties after the Department Convention in June. They will need your assistance in the upcoming year to move ahead. Make a pledge to yourself that you will be available to assist them as needed.



Thoughts From Marion

Dear Members,

It was really great to be able to attend our last meeting. In April, Mavis Spath was kind enough to take all the prepared limb covers and helmet liners to her house. I was not able to attend because of my recent move. She was going on a trip so she brought them to my house for shipping. I thought because the May meeting was coming up soon I would wait and send everything off at once. Unknown to her I had received a box back again. On Monday I made a couple phone calls and found the best way to send the new packages out. I took them to the post office a few minutes ago. We had 50 helmet liners to send to our troops overseas. We had 147 limb covers to send to the naval hospital. That is a lot of hard work that the ladies did the last two months. On behalf of all the servicemen and women who will receive them, I want to express my thanks to you for your time and effort.

If any of our members have not been to the Pueblo Veterans Living Center for All Patients Day, please mark your calendar for September 17th. It is a fun day to spend with our Veterans. Our Post has participated in this day for several years. We have a booth, (one of many) and we have prizes for the Veterans who participate in the game we have. Don't miss it this year. You will really be glad you took part in this day for our Veterans.

Our Post has many good activity programs to attend. Mark you calendars when you get the newsletter each month. Then if it is a dinner "DON'T FORGET TO PLACE YOUR RSVP". That is very important.

Now that I am getting pretty well settled in after my move, I may see you at some of the activities around Memorial Day.





Post Officers

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Jay Bowen	719-574-1223
Sr. Vice Cdr	Jerry Hodson	719-391-1411
Jr. Vice Cdr	Chet Dean	719-638-8805
Adjutant	Larry Johnson	719-622-0344
Finance Officer	Norman Moyer	719-392-3725
Chaplain	Mario Taracena	719-495-0363
Sergeant-at-Arms	Robert Rydell	719-634-4203
Historian	Crystal Weller	719-481-8100
Post Executive Committeeman	Neal Thomas	719-392-1510
Service Officer	John Brown	719-331-8160
Judge Advocate	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 2009-2010

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Jackie Bowen	719-574-1223
Vice President	Annie Peterson	719-599-3818
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Mary Grier	719-536-0438
Chaplain	Marion Daugherty	719-637-9555
Sergeant-AT-Arms	Vacant	



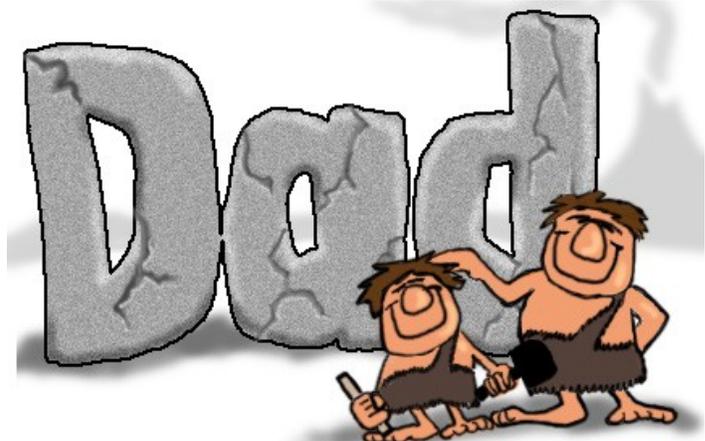
Board of Trustees 2009-2010

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 Post 209 Calendar of Events

2 Jun	Post Executive Committee Mtg 6:30pm
3 Jun	Hamdogger Wingding Night 6:30pm
11 Jun	Breakfast 9:00am Meeting(s) 10:00am
11 Jun	Flag Disposal Ceremony 1:00pm
14 Jun	Army Birthday Celebration 6:30pm
17 Jun	Steak Night (Surprise) 6:30pm
19 Jun	Father's Day
23-26 Jun	Department Convention at Double Tree and the Post. Activities to be announced
1 Jul	.Hamdogger Wingding Dinner 6:30pm
4 Jul	Post Picnic 10:00am till ?????
7 Jul	Post Executive Committee Mtg 6:30pm
9 Jul	Breakfast 9:00am Meeting 10:00am
15 Jul	Steak Night
4 Aug	Post Executive Committee Mtg 6:30pm Coast Guard Birthday
5 Aug	Hamdogger, Wingding Night 6:30pm
13 Aug	Breakfast 9:00am Meeting 10:00am
19 Aug	Steak Night 6:30pm
1 Sep	Post Executive Committee Mtg 6:30pm
2 Sep	Hamdogger, Wingding Dinner 6:30pm
10 Sep	Breakfast 9:00am Meeting 10:00am





Military Service Birthday's Celebrations

Flag Retirement Ceremony

Listed below are the Military Birthday dates :

Army	14 Jun
Coast Guard	4 Aug
Air Force	17 Sep
Navy	13 Oct
Marine	10 Nov

For each Branch's Birthday, the Post will honor that Branch's birthday on the dates listed above. Although we will be celebrating a specific Branch's birthday, all Legionnaires, families and friends are encouraged to participate.

The meal offered will be a choice of Roast Beef or Turkey, with the fixings to go with it. The cost of the meal will be \$12.00 per person. Kids under the age of 12 or eating off of your plate are free.

We are asking everyone to make reservations so that we can ensure enough food will be available for you to enjoy.

The Installation of Officers was Saturday, 21 May at the Post. The Legionnaires in the picture below were installed and accepted the responsibility to fulfill the duties of the Office that you elected them to do.

It is up to you to offer your experience, knowledge abilities and can do attitude to assist them in their duties.



SATURDAY, 11 June 2011 at 1:00 p.m. will be the flag retirement ceremony.

If you have a flag that needs to be retired, please bring it down to the post on Sunday.

Please make plans to attend and help us honor the flag and pay proper respects.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you able to donate a few hours of your time during the time frame of 23 to 26 June when the Post is sponsoring The State convention of the American Legion?

The Post needs your help to put our best foot forward to the other participants of The Department Convention. Listed below are some of the areas in which we need help. If you can help Larry Johnson will be hosting a meeting for Volunteers after the General Membership meeting on 17 June at 7:00 pm. I hope to see you then.

- Honor/Color Guard Volunteers
- Shuttle Drivers; with or without Vehicle
- Kitchen Assistance
- Event Coordination Support
- General Assistance
- Help with selling meal tickets at the convention

I need your help and the post needs your help.

Please help us!!



**Club Manager
Art Kimbrel**

I would like to take a moment and say THANKS to all who have attended the various functions, such as the breakfasts, dinners, and others. I appreciate the encouraging words that are spoken.

I would ask that you pass those comments on to your friends and encourage them to come out and try the food for themselves and see what they think.

I would appreciate any and all help that you can provide during the Department Convention 23 to 26 June 2011. The schedule of events are published elsewhere in the newsletter and on the webpage.

Just as a reminder, for the Hamdogger Wingding nights, children under the age of 12 will receive a free hotdog when you order a meal. For the various dinners that we have, children under the age of 12 and who are sharing your plate are free.

Reservations are very important when planning meals for the various events. We loose a lot of money when we do not know how many will be attending. The one thing that I have found to be intolerable is when someone comes in for a meal and there is not enough food.

I would like you to make your reservations by calling the Post at 719-599-8624 and leaving a message.

UMBRELLA SALES

The Auxiliary is selling umbrellas for a fundraiser. They are \$15 each. Features include:

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

Clear panel for easy visibility.

Proceeds will be used to assist local area Veterans and Auxiliary programs.



**From Scouts and Service Officer
John Brown**

Scouts: June events

June is the first of the summer months that Scouts will be participating in summer time events planned by both Packs. Both Packs have completed their graduation and have moved up one rank in the Cub Scouting program. Both Packs have a summer filled with events for the boys to live and learn the scouting experience. Summer camp is a big event this summer with day events, night events and badges to be earned by learning the scouting ways.

Service: Young adult Tricare coverage to cost about \$200 a month

It will cost about \$200 per month for young adults under age 26 to keep health insurance coverage under their parents' Tricare policy. Military health officials announced the new program's rates April 27 and said it is open for enrollment with coverage starting May 1. The new program will allow children of troops and military retirees to extend coverage beyond the traditional cutoff at age 21, or 23 for full-time students.

Congress passed a law in January ordering Tricare to offer the coverage because many young people struggle to find health insurance through an employer. Only military dependents who are unmarried and do not have access to coverage through an employee can qualify for the program, officials said.

From Air Force Times 9 May 2011

Service Officer Post 209

SAVE THE DATE

Save the date of Monday, 4 July as the day for the Post's annual picnic. The day will start around 10:00am and will go until everyone departs.

We ask that everyone bring their favorite dish to share and your choice of meat that the Post will cook for you. The Post will provide the condiments and refreshments. We are looking for someone to run the games for the kids.

Hope to see you there!!!

Gulf War Presumptive Disease



From the Adjutant
Larry Johnson

The Veterans Benefits Administration issued a new FAST letter on Iraq, Afghanistan, Gulf War Claims 15 Mar 2011. The letter provides guidance to all VBA Regional Officers and Centers on rating disability and death claims for service connected based upon specified infectious diseases that are presumed to be related to Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan service. It notes that 38 CFR 3.317 (c) was revised effective 29 Sep 2010. The revised regulations provides for establishing service connection on a presumptive basis for the following infectious diseases; **Brucellosis, Campylobacter jejuni, Coxiella burnetii (Q Fever, Malaria, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, Nontyphoid Salmonella, Shigella, Visceral leishmaniasis, West Nile virus.**

For more information go to http://www.91outcomes.com/201_03_01_archive.html. Source VBA FAST ltr 15 Mar 2011

H.R. 814

National Commander Jimmie Foster is requesting that we all get behind this bill and contact our Congressman and let them know we want them to vote for this. This bill would allow the Veterans to utilize their Medicare benefits with the VA.

Stop loss Extension

Once again Stop Loss is extended until 31 Oct 2011.

If you know of anyone who was held over and has not filed for their reimbursement. Please let them know that they still have a chance of collecting the money that they are entitled to.

Information to our Members

If you have the capability, I urge everyone to go to website at www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org to review information we can put into the newsletter.

We do not have the room that we need the monthly newsletter and use the webpage to post a longer version.

Something new this year; when you receive your renewal notice in July, there will be a note that states if you prefer, you can make use of National's pay-online method to renew your dues for 2012.

Please DO NOT renew through National as it will cause an accounting nightmare and will interfere with the operation of the Post as it will take at least three months for your dues to make it down to us and will cause more problems maintaining records.

We also have the capability for you to renew your 2012 membership online through PayPal.

The American Legion has long been an organization of tradition. One of the traditions of the Post has always been to have an Installation of Officers Banquet recognizing those Legionnaires who have been elected by you to carry the Post onward for another year. I must impart to everyone that I was very disappointed when only 5 officers and three other members were present for the Installation and banquet.

I hope that you will be able find it in you to participate more in the upcoming year. Although we are not in competition with restaurants, I can ensure you that the quality is just as good if not better and the price is right.

RSVP SPECIAL

Make an advance reservation for the Steak night on 17 June and receive a special discount. With advance reservation, you get a steak at the regular price of \$10.00 and the second for a price of \$8.00. Please email or phone your reservation to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) or Lynn Thomas (439-6268). Let us know how many will be attending. Present the coupon below with your order.

A graphic for a steak night coupon. It features two images of steaks on the left and right, and a central blue box with the text "STEAK NIGHT COUPON" in red and white. Below the images, the text reads: "Buy 1 dinner at Regular Price, get the 2nd One at \$ 2.00 off." At the bottom, it says "Good only during the month of JUNE and with a reservation made in advance" in red and black text.

Buy 1 dinner at Regular Price, get the 2nd One at \$ 2.00 off.

Good only during the month of JUNE and with a reservation made in advance



**From the Chaplain
Mario Taracena**

MY NAME IS OLD GLORY

“We are allowing him his civil rights to display his heritage and to be proud of who he is, but we are denying Franklin those same rights. He was denied hanging the flag up,” said on May 11th the outraged father of the 11 year old who wanted to display the American flag he drew in his art class. His teacher at the elementary school in Orange, MA said to the boy that the flag would offend another classmate. Franklin then asked if he could put it on his desk. Again the request was denied and instead he was advised to take it home.



This is certainly not an isolated incident but a well organized agenda against the patriotic and sacred symbols of our heritage and country. We see this trend in all levels of education where prayers and bibles have been completely eliminated. History books are revised to reflect “political correctness.”

The American Legion since its founding has championed patriotism and citizenship. It advocates legal protection of the flag. Desecration is not a “right” like speech, but a form of conduct that can and should be regulated by law.

The American flag is the symbol of the nation. Just last month at LSU Baton Rouge a student planned to burn a US flag. This he said was in response to the arrest of a fellow student who a week before was charged for stealing the 10x15 foot US flag from the campus’s historic War Memorial. This student burned this flag after hearing the news that bin Laden had been eliminated. Well, this time the desecration of our flag was stopped by a patriotic crowd wearing red, white and blue chanting “U-S-A.” The crowd that grew to 1,000 peacefully gathered later around the campus flag pole reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Patriotism cannot be silenced by the loudest voice.

FLAG DAY: This month on Tuesday the 14th in commemoration of the Star Spangled Banner adopted by the Continental Congress in 1777, the nation will celebrate Flag Day. The meaning to us is captured in the expression “Our flag says I am what you make me nothing more.



For many years the American Legion has led the fight against flag desecration. The American Legion for decades has a ceremony for the dignified disposal of American flags, which has provided service to our homes, businesses and to our nation.

The Post will host a Flag Disposal Ceremony on Saturday, 11 June beginning at 1:00pm.

If you have a flag that is need of proper retirement please bring it to the Post or to the ceremony.

CONVENTION INFORMATION

23-26 June 2011

THURSDAY 23 JUNE 2011

7:30 A.M. GOLF TOURNAMENT PINE CREEK

1:00 P.M. GOLF LUNCHEON AND AWARD CEREMONY

2:00 P.M. D.E.C. MEETING DOUBLETREE HOTEL

3:00 P.M. POST OPENS

4:00 P.M. FOOD PREPARATION FOR VA&R MTG

5:00 P.M. SHUTTLE BUS FROM HOTEL TO POST AND BACK TO THE HOTEL
NEED DRIVERS AND VANS

6:00 P.M. VA&R HOT AND COLD APPETIZERS
NEED HELP WITH SETUP, BUSSING OF TABLES AND CLEANUP

7:00 P.M. VA&R AWARDS PRESENTATION

FRIDAY 24 JUNE 2011

7:00 A.M. DISTRICT OFFICER AND MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST AT THE DOUBLETREE

8:00 A.M. REGISTRATION AT HOTEL AND TICKET SALES
OPENING CEREMONIES AT THE DOUBLETREE HOTEL

11:30 A.M. ON YOUR OWN LUNCH —LUNCH IS BEING SERVED AT POST 209

1:30 P.M. CONVENTION RECONVENES

3:00 P.M. POST OPENS

4:30—6:30 P.M. “IT’S WHO WE ARE” WHY WE ARE UNIQUE AND MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

SHUTTLE BUS RUNS FROM HOTEL TO POST AND BACK TO HOTEL
NEED DRIVERS AND VANS

6:30— CHICKEN FRIED CHICKEN DINNER \$12.00 AND LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
NEED SET UP, BUSING SUPPORT, AND CLEANUP
SHUTTLE DRIVER BACK TOP HOTEL AFTER DINNER AND DANCE

SATURDAY, 25 JUNE 2011

8:00 A.M. CONVENTION RECONVENES
REGISTRATION
TICKET SALES AT HOTEL

9:00 A.M. NEED HELP IN SETTING UP, BUSING OF TABLES AND CLEANUP

11:30 A.M. ON YOUR OWN LUNCH— LUNCH SERVED AT POST
SHUTTLE FROM HOTEL TO POST AND BACK TO HOTEL
NEED DRIVERS AND VANS

1:00 P.M. CONVENTION RECONVENES
ELECTION OF OFFICERS

3:00 P.M. POST OPENS

5:00—7:00 P.M. INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND RECEPTION LINE
SHUTTLE SERVICE TO POST AND BACK TO HOTEL
NEED SHUTTLE DRIVERS AND VANS

7:30 P.M. PRIME RIB DINNER \$15.00 PER PERSON

8:00 P.M. KARAOKE

SUNDAY 26 JUNE 2011

7:00 A.M. BREAKFAST AT POST 209 \$10.00 PER PERSON
NEED HELP WITH FOOD PREPARATION, BUSING, AND CLEANUP

9:30 A.M. MEMORIAL SERVICE AT POST

10:30 A.M. D.E.C. MEETING