



Centennial Post 209

1337 N. Academy Blvd.
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

NEWSLETTER

Volume 15 Edition 1 89/90

June 1989

COMMANDER
SENIOR VICE COMMANDER
JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER
ADJUTANT
FINANCE OFFICER
SERVICE OFFICER
HISTORIAN
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
CHAPLAIN
JUDGE ADVOCATE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN
PAST COMMANDER

Larry L. Johnson, 574-0646
Thomas J. Gross, 685-1195
William Henson, 574-7314
Harry G. Johnson, 596-9261
Dave Thomas, 392-1036
Howard Hornik, 596-6345
Peter B. Hermann, 596-6345
Jack R. Wood, 550-0624
Thomas A. Haban, 596-3594
John Kovar, 632-7866
Neal Thomas, 392-1510
Max Hoyer, 597-3498

THANKS :

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the trust that you have placed in my hands by electing me as Commander of Centennial Post 209. I truly appreciate the opportunity to lead this Post throughout the American Legion Year 1989-1990. I know that with your help, I as well as the Post, will have a tremendous year.

GOALS :

As you know the Commanders in the past have had some specific goals; holding the Post together in the beginning years; the formation of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit, the introduction of Bingo; the stabilizing of our Bingo games and the formation of our Post home. All of these goals have been met or exceeded in grand style. My goals for the upcoming year are to get the Post involved with more of the American Legion Programs as well as Community Service. As in the past, with the other Commanders, the only way that I can reach these goals, is if EVERYONE-- LEGIONNAIRES AND AUXILIARY --help me reach them. I NEED YOU!! In regards to the programs, I would like to find people who are interested in American Legion Programs and would be willing to spend about one evening a week in support of them. I am enclosing a paper on these programs with this issue of the Newsletter with a brief description of what they are. I am looking for Legionnaires who would be able to serve as Committee Chairmen/Chairpersons for the following committees:

Boy Scouts Oratorical Committee Community Service
Flag Etiquette Veteran's Assistance and Visitations at Nurs-
ing Homes and VA Hospitals and a host of other activities.

If you don't see an activity or committee that interest you, but you have a committee that you would like to see started which you would like to participate in, please feel free to call me at 574-0646 or stop by for the meeting on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and express your ideas; we are always open to new ideas and suggestions that would help the Children and Youth as well as the American Legion.

BINGO:

In past issues you have heard that we do have a fund raiser for the Post. That fund raiser is our weekly Friday evening Bingo Games at the Retired Enlisted Association, located on Emory Circle, off Galley Road. I am asking all Legionnaires and Auxiliary members to please consider giving one evening a month to this endeavor. Those Legion and Auxiliary members that are currently supporting this activity are in need of some rest. We would like to form four or more teams, that way no one would have to give up more than one night a month. Call, write us, come by the Post and leave your name and phone number if you would like to be included in this program. This will enable us to keep on working towards the ULTIMATE GOAL, which is a PERMANENT POST HOME.

MEMBERSHIP:

As of the writing of this letter, we are still fourteen members away from our goal of 245 members for the Legion Year 1988-89. I would like to ask those members who have not renewed their membership, to take a moment and send in your dues for the 1988-89 year.

In addition, National Commander Geirke has asked that we not stop recruiting membership for this year until September as we would like to be able to say we have reached our goal of 3 million members at the National Convention in Baltimore, MD.

I am also going to start my membership year for 1989-90 upon my return from the Department Convention, which will be held in Sterling, CO, June 23 thru 26th. At that time, if you would like, you can start mailing in your renewals as I will have picked up the new cards for the upcoming year. The dues are still the same, \$20 per year.

PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP:

Permanent membership is a way of not having to worry about renewals every year. In addition, it also could be a money saver, should dues ever go up. In order to figure out the required dues the following formula will apply: 1) You must have paid the current year dues; in this case the 1990 dues of \$20, 2) Multiply \$12.50 X \$20, 3) Add 1 and 2 together and add a \$25 administrative charge and you will have the total for the Permanent membership.

This changes if you are above the age of 65. In that case, you must have paid your 1990 dues and then \$75, plus a \$25 administrative charge for the total cost of the Permanent membership.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:

I am sure that everyone who attended the Installation of Officers and the banquet will agree that the evenings festivities were excellent. I would like to thank all those who attended.

GI BILL OF RIGHTS TO MARK 45TH ANNIVERSARY IN JUNE:

The Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944, known to millions as the "GI Bill of Rights", marks its 45th Anniversary in June.

Described as the most comprehensive and effective piece of legislation ever passed by the Congress, it was signed into law by President Roosevelt, June 22, 1944, just 16 days after the D-Day Invasion of Europe.

Although much fighting remained for Americans in both Europe and the Pacific before the final victory, The American Legion, in the face of fierce opposition from many factions, had created the framework for the readjustment to civilian life of millions of American GI's.

Since Legionnaire Harry Colmery wrote the first GI bill in a hotel room in Washington, D. C., more than 20 million veterans have received some form of training and over 13 million have received a home loan guaranteed by the Federal Government, having a major impact on the home building industry in America.

The original GI Bill provided financial assistance for education to nearly 8 million World War II veterans. Through its provisions, some 6 million obtain GI loans to finance homes, farms, and businesses. Most of these loans were made by private lenders and guaranteed by the federal government.

The GI Bill played an important role in replenishing the heavily drained pool of the nation's educated workforce, and the law's benefits will be felt far into the future. Chief Justice William Rehnquist of the U. S. Supreme Court, the NAACP's Benjamin Hooks, and many members of the Congress are among the millions, who received their education under the GI Bill.

Through education benefits under the original GI Bill ceased in 1956, subsequent bills covering Korea and Vietnam veterans were modeled after the original. The results; Better-trained and better-paid veterans who have contributed billions of additional dollars in taxes -- additional dollars which have more than met the original cost of their education.

"The bill ensured that those who left their civilian pursuits to defend and preserve our freedoms were equipped to participate in its economic life", said Sen Strom Thurmond, R-SC.

"Comparing the financial return to government against its costs, clearly shows that the GI Bill was not only just a good idea, it was a bargain", said American Legion National Commander H. F. "Sparky" Gierke.

(reprinted from the American Legion News Service,
May 22, 1989)

AUXILIARY CORNER:

Hi Ladies:

I would like to thank everyone for their help and support during the past month, when we had so many activities going on. We were able to send a good size order of cookies to Fort Lyon Veteran's Hospital.

We had a good representation at the District 7 Convention on 28 May 1989, which was held at American Legion Post 38 in Security, Colorado. Congratulations to Vi Herath on her election as the District Seven, Sergeant-at-Arms.

Our Poppy distribution was very good this year. Thanks to you ladies who helped in this endeavor.

It's great to see so many of you getting so involved. Thanks for all the support. We can't help but have a great year!!

The Flea Market is getting near. Remember the date, JUNE 17th. Would all Legionnaires, wives and/or husbands, and Auxiliary members check their closets, basements and garages for donations. Your junk may be someone else's treasure! Any donations will be accepted at the Post home, Tuesday, June 13th thru June 16th, between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. Hours for the Flea Market will be 9:00 a. m. to 3:00 p. m. Come out and help us in our endeavor. The proceeds will go to aid our veterans who cannot help themselves. Let us help each other by letting them know they are NOT FORGOTTEN!

Our next meeting will be June 15th at the Post home at 7:00 p.m. Hope to see you all there.

Margery Johnson
President

LOUNGE:

The Lounge is open for the use of the Legionnaires, Auxiliary members and their Guests. The hours of Operation are from 4:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M., Tuesday thru Thursday and 4:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. Friday and Saturday.

By June 9th , we hope to have the Game Room open where we will have Pool tables and Electronic Darts in operation.

June 10th, is Membership Appreciation Day. We will be having Dart Tournaments, Pool Tournaments and many other activities throughout the day and evening. Plan to attend.

UPCOMING EVENTS

13 June Post Executive Committee Meeting-Post Home/7:00 P.M.
14 June Flag Day -- Remember to Pause for the Pledge
15 June Post General Membership Meeting - Post Home
1337 North Academy Boulevard - 7:00 P.M.
18 June Father's Day
22-26 June Department Convention, Sterling, Colorado
04 July Independence Day
11 July Executive Committee Meeting - Post Home/7:00 P.M.
16 July District Meeting, Florence Post 25, Florence, CO- 1:00 P.M.
20 July Post General Membership Meeting, Post Home
1337 North Academy Boulevard - 7:00 P. M.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
CENTENNIAL POST 209
1337 N. ACADEMY BLVD.
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80909
591-2272

