

The Centennial



VOLUME 26 EDITION 6

JUNE 2012

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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Jay Bowen

One of the most common complaints I hear from people about getting older is the tendency to forget things they should know. I hear people lamenting about this even more often than complaints about their aching joints.

I have a theory about this (by the way, I have a theory about almost everything). I think we use that tired old excuse for many things when really it is not true. For example, I have a trick I like to pull on Jackie from time to time. She'll take off on a story about a neighborhood dog using our lawn as his personal outhouse, and I'll interrupt her and ask if she remembered to pick up a new bottle of Crown when she was out earlier in the day. She'll reply "yes" (she NEVER forgets my Crown, which is one reason we've been married more than 40 years). Then I'll ask if she got the 1.75 Liter instead of the smaller bottle, to which she will once again reply in the affirmative. I'll tell her thank you for being so thoughtful and then I'll follow it up with, "now what were you saying?" 99% of the time she'll just stare at me with a blank look and after about 10 seconds say, "I don't remember." I'll just smile and tell her it's okay and that she can tell me later if she remembers. Where this tends to backfire on me is when she looks at me and asks, "What was I saying?" I just laugh and tell her I also forgot, when the truth is I didn't forget; I wasn't listening in the first place. POW! Forgetting then gets a bad hit and the blame.

Don't get me wrong, we all forget things. And I believe it may be true that we tend to forget things more often as we age. But the jury is still out on that assumption. In fact, we may have forgotten that we were just as forgetful when we were younger.



I firmly believe the worst years of anyone's life for remembering things are during the teen years. I can tell you for a fact that my two boys' brains were mush during that decade. The reason I say that is because I can't tell you how many times I would ask them why they didn't tell me they ran over the neighbor's mailbox, or why didn't they do their homework from the night before, or why didn't they study for the test they were told was coming, and most of the time the answer was, "I forgot!"

This is the same reply I often hear when I ask some of our members about their absence at an event. I get the shoulder shrug and "Man, I just forgot." Don't get me wrong. I too, forget things. But often when I use that excuse it is really because I didn't want to remember and just don't want to hurt anyone's feelings. I'm sensitive that way.

People do forget. And they seem to either forget more things as they get older or maybe they're just more aware of it with the idea it could be a form of dementia. Again, I think it is just because we have been fortunate enough to live a long time and learn many things. Our brain is not an infinite repository. It is not unlike our computer's hard drive. We continue to put stuff in there and if we don't catalog it right, we have a heckuva time retrieving it. We know it's there somewhere, but we just can't find it. I think that's our problem also. The memory is still there, we just can't find it. We've placed it in the wrong folder in our mind. That's not a memory problem, that's a retrieval and organizational problem, but that's for another article.

Lastly, this was not the article intended for this month, but I forgot what I was planning to write.

For God and Country,
Jay



Auxiliary President Jackie Bowen

I want to apologize to Marion Daugherty, our Unit Chaplain, for omitting her name in the list of our 2012-2013 Unit officers. Marion does a great job as our Chaplain and thankfully she agreed to serve another year.

Our Installation of Officers was conducted by Past Department President Pat Steranka. Our new officers take over July 1st. The Installation went well and the dinner that followed was even better. During the dinner our Post Commander commended our Auxiliary Unit for all of our hard work. He wanted to let us know that our work is noticed and very much appreciated.

Wearing Poppies is one way to show our appreciation for all of our Veterans, especially our fallen heroes. "Since WW1 the poppy has been our memorial flower, representing the sacrifices of our servicemen and women." These flowers are handmade by Veterans. Please wear your poppy this Memorial Day. If you need a poppy, we can supply you with one. It is nice to wear the poppy anytime you would like to show your support of our servicemen and women but especially on Memorial Day.

Watch the news, read the paper, and read our calendar of events for Memorial Day Services. Following the Memorial Service at TREA (The Retired Enlisted Association), our District Auxiliary will be placing yellow roses on the Vietnam Memorial at Memorial Park. This will be somewhere around 12:00 noon. Everyone is welcome to join us in this endeavor. In the past years we have had several Vietnam Veterans give a little history of their service in Vietnam. I know we can't all attend each and every one of the Memorial Day celebrations but try to make at least one.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly,
Jackie Bowen



From the Adjutant Larry Johnson

Every year the questions that are asked are the same, but again, different.

I get questions like, "Where is my magazine?" I normally get asked this when a new member joins. It takes about three months for National to get your address loaded into the database and then you will receive 12 issues of The American Legion Magazine.

Then I receive the question, "How come I am no longer receiving my magazine?" Again, you get 12 issues of The American Legion Magazine. So, if you haven't renewed before the 12th issue your subscription is ended until your renewal dues are processed at National, and your address is again loaded.

Some of you transferred from another Post to Post 209 after the membership list was pulled by National in order to get the membership cards for 2013 printed and you may receive dues renewal notice from the Post you transferred from. Please remember, you are now a member of Post 209 and our dues are \$35.00 a year. Don't pay dues to your old Post!

As I indicated in last month's newsletter, it does not matter when you renew your dues except for a new member who joins in July. You will get a membership until December 2013, but please remember you will only receive the 12 issues of the American Legion Magazine and then National will be looking for your renewal.

I would like to ask you now to help me reach a personal goal that I would like to achieve for American Legion Year 2013. I would like to see Post 209 reach it's membership goal by 31 December. With your help we can accomplish this task and probably surpass our membership goal for the fourth year in a row and reach another All-Time High as we've done for the past 3 years.

The Post membership is currently sitting at 622 Legionnaires. It may sound corny and you may have heard this before but, if everyone would recruit one member we would double our membership in a year. It is possible to do this, but it also increases the work the officers and committees have to do in order to operate the Post. We sure could use your help.



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: centennialtwozeronine@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



Sons of The American Legion 2011-2012

Commander	Bob Ribisi	719-638-2603
Adjutant	Ken Taylor	719-761-4047
Finance Officer	Ken Taylor	719-761-4047
Chaplain	Chet Dean	719-244-2442



Centennial 209 Family Calendar of Events

1 Jun	Hamdogger Wingding Dinner 6:30pm
7 Jun	Post Executive Committee Mtg 6:30pm
9 Jun	Breakfast 9:00am General Meeting(s) 10:00am
10 Jun	FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY 2:00pm (Updates coming)
14 Jun	FLAG DAY Army Birthday Celebration 6:30pm RSVP!
15 Jun	Steak Night 6:30pm RSVP!
17 Jun	Fathers Day
22 Jun	Fish Fry 6:30pm RSVP!
28 Jun - 1 Jul	Department Convention — Grand Junction
5 Jul	Post Executive Committee Mtg 6:30pm
6 Jul	Hamdogger Wingding Dinner 6:30pm
8-9 Jul	Membership Booth—Rustic Hills North
14 Jul	Breakfast 9:00am General Meeting(s) 10:00am
14 Jul	SAL Meeting 12:00pm
20 Jul	Steak Night 6:30pm RSVP!
27 Jul	Fish Fry 6:30pm RSVP!
2 Aug	Post Executive Committee Mtg 6:30pm
3 Aug	Hamdogger Wingding Dinner 6:30pm
11 Aug	Breakfast 9:00am Meetings 10:00am Membership Booth Rustic Hills
11 Aug	SAL Meeting 12:00pm
17 Aug	Steak Night 6:30pm RSVP!
24 Aug	Fish Fry 6:30pm RSVP!

Would You Like to be Published?

Anyone who would like to submit an article for *The Centennial* is strongly encouraged to do so. However, the articles MUST be received by the 15th of EACH MONTH. All articles are to be sent to the following email: centennialtwozeronine@yahoo.com. If you have questions please free to call the Post and leave a message.



Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com, or Lynn Thomas at 439-6268



The Flag Retirement Ceremony will be at the Post on Sunday, 10 June at 2:00pm.

We invite you, your family and friends to attend the ceremony.

If you or your neighbors have torn, tattered or old flags that need to be retired, please bring them down to the Post for the ceremony.

Hope to see you there.



ARMY BIRTHDAY DINNER

A year has just about gone by and it is time to Celebrate "The Army's Birthday" with a dinner on the 14th of June, which is also Flag Day.

The dinner is scheduled for 6:30pm at the Post. The menu will consist of a choice between roast beef or turkey breast, and potato, veggies, salad and desert. The cost for this meal is \$10 per person.

All Veterans, families and friends are invited to help celebrate the Army Birthday and remember you do not have to have served in the Army help celebrate.



From the Junior Vice Commander Lyle Hagelberg

At the June General Membership Meeting Jim Hus-tad will speak to those who are present on "Colorado's newest way for your estate to be left and received simply, quickly and affordable with no probate or legal fees at all."

This is NOT a sales pitches or anything of that nature. Just a presentation and if you're interested, a point of contact.

I hope to see you there.

STEAK NIGHT COUPON

Buy 1 dinner at Regular Price of \$ 12.00, get the 2nd One at \$ 2.00 off.

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



Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209 Ken Taylor

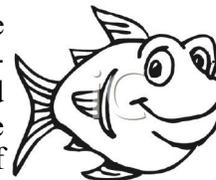
The donation year for our largest project (The Child Welfare Foundation) closes on 31 May. I am happy to report we collected over \$500 for this very worthy cause. This would not have been possible without support from our entire Legion family. We also collected a large portion from piggy banks found on tables at all Post events. Thanks to all who contributed.

Our donation year starts June and we are challenged to give \$1 for each member of the Legion family. I know we can reach our goal next year. At our May meeting, we decided to hold future meetings on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 1200 beginning July. We will not meet in June. We have new members and I would like to encourage everyone to come to our July meeting and get acquainted. Help us grow our Squadron and support our programs.

Fish Fry Friday

The Fish Fry is the 4th Friday of every month at 6:30pm. The cost per plate is a mere \$10 and includes all the fixins'.

We would like make a reservation the dinner and many will be for this night of reservations help so we can offer these great deals.



everyone to please tion in advance of let us know how accompanying you food and fun. Res-keep our costs low

Have You Moved? Are You Planning on Moving? Have You Changed Your Email Address?

These questions may seem a little strange, but let me assure you there is a reason why we are asking them.

So far this year, we have been charged over \$300.00 for Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL members who have moved and didn't think to add us to the list when changing address. When we send out your new membership card and it is returned because you moved, it costs your Post additional money. When we send the newsletter and it comes back, it costs additional money. When we get a return on your email, it doesn't cost extra per se, but you miss out of the latest edition of *The Centennial*.

Please let us know when you move.



**Club Manager
Art Kimbrel**

I want to thank our Post 209 family for participating in our regular events. My volunteer helpers and I strive to provide excellent meals for a reasonable price. I've asked you to RSVP ahead of the events such as Steak Night and Fish Fry, so I know how much food to buy for that event. I don't stock perishables and can't afford waste if I am to continue to provide reasonably priced meals. Therefore effective immediately, RSVP's should be at least two days prior to the event. Any RSVP received at least one day prior to the event may still be served if food is available, but may also be charged \$1.00 more per meal for late call in. This may be necessary to offset the possible additional cost of making last minute runs to the local grocer for food items and losing out on opportunities to save when buying in bulk based off the headcount. Help us keep the prices low!



**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 us directly. Sometimes if you leave a message at the Post there may be a delay with the information getting to us. 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 Chet Dean 719-244-2442
Assistant Chaplain Mike Stebick 719-351-2574

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.

District 7 Convention Highlights

The District 7 Convention was held on 20 May at Palmer Lake Post 9-11.

We heard from Roxann Crouse, from the Veterans Administration in reference to "Homeless Veterans".

She is involved with two programs concerning the Homeless Veteran. One is the Crawford House, which helps Veterans who are going through the VA's Drug and Alcohol abuse program. The other program is the HUD/VASH program which is aimed at getting the homeless off of the streets and into some type of housing, apartments, houses, etc.

The priorities are getting families, females, and single veterans off of the streets.

According to Roxann, they are in need of everything that make a house a home. This includes furniture, silverware, small appliances, and of course they can always use money.

If you have anything you would like to donate please give Roxann a call at 719-327-5699 or you can send her an email at roxann.crouse@va.gov.

In addition, The Department Commander's project this year is the Fisher House and is looking for monetary donations to help.

There were two resolutions that were presented and approved to be forwarded to Department and will be considered at the Department Convention 28 June to 1 July in Grand Junction. The 1st resolution dealt with expanding the eligibility of The American Legion. The 2nd resolution dealt with term limitations of the National Executive Committeeman and the Alternate National Executive Committeeman.

Two other motions were made and both carried. The first was asking all Posts within the District to donate \$40 in Support of Veterans dues at the Florence Nursing home. The 2nd was for the District to support a booth at the El Paso County Fair in Calhan, 21 -28 July. The cost of hosting a booth at the fair is \$125. The Past Commanders of Post 39 donated \$100 towards this endeavor.

(continued next page)



From The Service Officer John Brown

On March 23, defense health officials announced DoD would award the TRICARE West region contract to UnitedHealth Military and Veterans Services.

What does this mean for military beneficiaries in the West region? For at least the next year, nothing will change, as TriWest will continue to manage the contract through March 2013. But, it's possible that some beneficiaries will need to find new doctors who participate in the United Health network.

With all the rich 1%ers in our post traveling overseas, here is a note to be aware of: From the moment you leave U.S. territory, you will have no coverage by the Medicare portion of Tricare for Life. Federal law does not allow Medicare to pay for foreign medical care. Your only coverage will be Tricare.

This is my last news input for Service officer, It has been an honor and I hope Gunny has just as much fun as I did.

John Brown
Service Officer Post 209



From The Scouts John Brown

Crew 1911 is up and running and meeting second Wednesday at the post. With 5 young adults in the crew they will start functioning as a crew with the election of officers. We have more senior adults than young adults in the crew. If anyone knows of young adults, male or female, between 14 and 21 who wants to shoot guns let me know.

Pack 24 has their graduation in May and all the boys will start earning new awards for their new ranks. Summer camp, day camp, summer time events are filling their days. There is a Pack campout 3 Jun in Red Rock camp grounds north of Woodland Park. There is a fun packed day planned for over 40 boys and their parents and siblings.

Pack 386 is moving ahead also. The other night we had school night for scouting at the post and we have recruited 3 new tigers, have leads on 2 more and a few other contacts to track down. I'm sure there will be a new tiger den ready to go in the fall (Tigers are first graders).

District 7 Convention Highlights (continued)

District Commander Mike Christensen is calling on all members of The American Legion Family to man the booth from 1000 to 1300 to pass out information on Legion Programs and let everyone know there are Legion Posts within El Paso, Fremont and Teller Counties. If you think that you might be able to help please contact Larry Johnson at 719-622-0344.

Newly elected District Officers for 2012-2013 are:

Commander, Mike Christensen, Post 9-11, USAF
Sr. Vice Cdr, Jay Bowen, Post 209, Army
Jr. Vice Cdr, Alva Bendure, Post 2008, USAF
Adjutant, Larry Johnson, Post 209, Army
Finance Officer, Mike Frye, Post 39, Navy
Sgt-At-Arms, Dave Hall, Post 5, Army
Chaplain, Jim Bergeron, Post 9-11, USAF
Historian, Sharon O'Donnell, Post 39, USAF
D.E.C., Randy Fritz, Post 9-11, USAF

Larry Johnson asked all Posts to support his run for Department Junior Vice Commander for 2012-2013.

It was also put out that the 2013 Mid-Year Conference would probably be held in Colorado Springs.

Wheelchairs for Veterans!

We have a new project we are working to support local Veterans. We have partnered with Jack Levinson to provide both manual and powered chairs to Veterans who don't qualify under VA.

On 19 May, we held an event at the Post to raise money to buy repair parts and batteries for the chairs. We had supporters and vendors participating, as well as five ladies from Hooters in the Citadel Mall helping to make it a fun and successful event.

If you can support with time and/or donations, please contact Chet Dean or Ken Taylor (see page 3).





From the Junior Vice Commander Lyle Hagelberg



UNCLE GEORGE

I've been thinking about the movie War Horse and my great uncle who was a doctor in WW I.

Uncle George Puffett was a doctor in Ames, Iowa and joined the Iowa National Guard in 1917 when the call went out for volunteers/draftees. He was one of the 115,000 Iowans to

serve in WWI.

After minimal military training he was sent to France where he doctored at a hospital in the Meuse/Argonne area. Doctors did not have military housing on base like today, they were billeted with local families, in this case a French family in the small town of Montiers-sur-Saulx. The doctors would travel back and forth to the medical facility or whatever they were called in those days.

As the only other person in our three generation family I was lucky enough to receive a box of military paraphernalia after my uncle died. In the box was a picture of a girl about 4 years old setting on a low stone wall with a doll in her arms. The child's name was printed on the back of the picture. We had this, among other photos, stored in an album for a number of years. Of course it always went with our household goods on every military move.

While stationed in Belgium in the 1980s we often made trips to my wife's parents home in Verdun, France. On one of these trips we took a day drive to some of the WWI battlegrounds in and around St Mihiel (one of the big American battles). We passed through this small village of Montiers-sur-Saulx, and decided to stop to see if we might find the family that housed Uncle George (Remember, it is now 60 some years after that war).



It was a Sunday and no one seemed to be on the streets but we found an elderly man and stopped him to make inquiries. We told him our story and he directed us to a house on the same street, telling us that Madame so and so had an American in her home during the first war.

We went to the house, knocked, introduced ourselves and asked if they knew of a George Puffett. Of course they were puzzled so we started modifying the question: my uncle was a doctor during the first war. You should have seen their eyes light up; "Oh, doctor George"! The older lady, the mother, was there during the war as was the younger lady because she was the daughter whose picture we had. They took us across the hall to a large room, sort of a parlor, where Uncle George stayed while he lived with them. In a corner on a chair was the doll from the picture. Then they took us to the backyard and showed us the stone wall where the picture was taken. It was an amazing day, one which I wished I could have shared with Uncle George.



Teaching Flag Folding

On Saturday, 19 May, ladies from our Auxiliary and our Color Guard held a Flag Folding class for children of all ages at the Briargate Library. Our Color Guard began by folding a flag

and telling the meaning of the 13 folds. Afterwards, our Auxiliary got the audience involved by giving them hands-on demonstration on folding and packaging pocket flags to hand out to deploying service men and women. Some of the kids really got into the spirit of the event and signed their name to the card being inserted in the pocket flag packs.



THE AMERICAN LEGION
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