

The Centennial



VOLUME 24 EDITION 7

July 2010

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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander Jay Bowen

Can you believe more than half the year has gone by already? Wow! It will be the end of June or early July by the time you read this. I can't believe how quickly things are moving. Maybe it's because we are moving so fast at the Post. Since May, there has been an event every week or weekend. Part of me wants it to slow down, while another screams, "Yeah! Let's keep it up!"

This was the last month for some of our officers to participate in monthly meeting ceremonies and to serve the Post as officers. Bob Brietske has decided that being the Club Manager and chief cook and bottle washer is enough to keep his platter full, so he asked to step aside and not run this year as Junior Vice Commander. He will stay on in those other roles, thankfully. Chet Dean, our Assistant Chaplain has graciously volunteered his services as Junior Vice and he was unanimously approved by the Executive Committee to serve in this dual role. He will still fill in for Mario when necessary as Chaplain, but he will have primary duties as the Junior Vice. Paul Ray stepped up to the plate and volunteered to serve as the Senior Vice Commander; a position vacated when I moved up to finish Phil Larsen's tenure as Commander. Again, the Executive Committee supported my recommendation to have Paul serve. Thankfully, all other positions are filled by existing officers from last year. That brings much needed stability to our team. Thanks to all for your willingness to serve and continue serving. Our Post will benefit from your leadership and guidance.

As I mentioned last month, Bob Brietske turned in the winning nomination for our newsletter; *The Centennial*. He won a dinner for two at an upcoming Post event. He generously donated that gift back to the Post to be auctioned in the near future. So make certain you attend a monthly meeting in order to get a chance at winning the tickets.

By the time this edition goes to print, we will have returned from our Department Convention in Aurora. I will give you the highlights of that trip in the August offering of my article.

Well, we finished our membership drive for 2010 at 510, which is 136%. That is HUGE! We are the 6th largest Post in the State, and had the largest membership percentage among all Posts with a membership in excess of 150 members. I congratulate all of you who helped us achieve this remarkable accomplishment.



President's Column Jackie Bowen

We had a record for attendance at our June meeting of 20 ladies. Of those 20 we had a two join, Ho Ray and Sheryl Koszalka. Ho had visited with us several times. This was Sheryl's first visit with us. We are proud to welcome both to our Unit. We always invite anyone to visit with us and check us out. We are confident you will do what Ho and Sheryl did, and join up after you see us in action.

I want to personally thank our Ladies for helping clean and set up the Post for the Graduation party after our meeting. The Legionnaires were still meeting but we started without them and once they were done we had the Post in shape in record time. Everyone's help was greatly appreciated.

Legionnaire Crystal Weller is the new Historian for the Post. Please visit our website and see the recent pictures she has added. While you are there check out the calendar for all of our upcoming events. www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org is the address.

The Army birthday dinner was delicious. We had a small turnout but everyone that was there enjoyed it. Thanks again Bob. We ordered 600 pocket flags for the deploying troops. Please come out and join us for our flag folding project. Time and date to be determined later and I will keep everyone posted.

At our July meeting we will be joining the Legionnaires for a short time. They have a very special speaker, Millicent Young. Ms. Millie is a WWII Women Airforce Service Pilot (WASP), who was recently awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. I hope you can join us and witness this wonderful bit of history.

Our Post has been requested to host a dinner Aug 4th for an organization supporting the Wounded Warrior Project. The Wounded Warrior Project provides programs and services to severely injured service members during the time between active duty and transition to civilian life. Please mark this date on your calendars so that you may personally thank these fine men and women for their service.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly,
Jackie Bowen

**From the Desk and
Mind of the Commander (cont.)**

Jay Bowen

July starts the drive for 2011 membership. Let's work together to make our personal goal of 526, which would be an all-time high for our Post. All of you can help just by renewing your membership as soon as you get the notice in your mailbox. Don't worry about being cheated by paying early. Your membership runs from January to December, no matter when you renew. If you send in your check in July, it is for 2011 and will be good until December 2011. Doing it early will ensure you keep getting the monthly Legion Magazine and will also help our new National Commander determine what kind of budget he/she will have for the year. Please renew early. Then get out there and recruit one person. More on that later.

Lastly, along with our newly elected (and re-elected) officers, I announced during the June membership meeting I needed to appoint a few Standing Committees. Those are; Welcoming, Program Planning and Social, Membership, Americanism and Youth, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Legislative and National Security, Public Relations, and Club committees. I need 2 to 3 volunteers to serve on each. You will not be asked to devote a lot of time (my guess is you will only meet once or twice a month max), but in order to continue moving forward it will take more than a handful of people. Please consider volunteering. If interested or if you want more information on any of these committees, send me an email at LegionnaireJay@yahoo.com or call me at 574-1223 and I'll provide details.

Okay, I've rambled on enough this month. Thanks again for your devotion to our Post and the cause of helping Veterans and their family. We are indeed

Centennial News Articles

For all officers of the Post, Committee Chair's and anyone who wants to submit newsletter articles, they are to be done in font of Times New Roman with a size of 12. All articles are to be turned in to the Adjutant by sending them to the Post at Am-Legion209@base.comcastbiz.net and to john8936@msn.com by the 15th of every month. The Adjutant has the right to edit articles as needed.

Draft Registration

Although we are not drafting personnel for military service there is a law that says males between the ages of 18 and 25 must register for the draft.

At the Department Convention, it was brought up that if the male has not registered for the draft they will not qualify for Pell Grants for continuing Education or qualify for other types of loans and the penalties for not registering are quite powerful. Go to www.sss.gov for details.

Department Mid-year Conference and Department Convention 2011

At the Department Convention, the membership voted for Post 209 to host the Convention in June 2011. We were also informed that the Department Mid-year Conference will also be held in Colorado Springs in January of 2011.

While we don't have to do much for the Fall Conference, the Department Convention is different. We will immediately put together a Convention Executive Committee from which other committees will follow. If you would like to help, please let us know.

In addition to helping put together activities and things, please make plans to attend the Department Mid-Year Conference at the end of January and the Department Convention in June of 2011.

Post Opening

The Post is scheduled to be opened on Fridays from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M., and on Saturdays and Sunday's from 1:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. unless there is a crowd or the Post has been rented.

Our Adjutant, Larry Johnson will be at the Post in the evening processing membership and if you would like to come down or are in the vicinity and there is a white car in the parking lot, please feel free to come in and visit and make use of the facility.

The Post is here for the members pleasure.



**Post Officers
2010-2011**

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Jay Bowen	719-574-1223
Sr. Vice Cdr	Paul Ray	719-229-1494
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	Charles Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Past Commander	Bill Marshall	719-495-0088

Post Email: AmLegion209@base.comcastbiz.net
 Web Site: www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org



**Auxiliary Officers
2010-2011**

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Jackie Bowen	719-574-1223
Vice President	Annie Peterson	719-599-3818
Secretary	Lynne Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Mary Grier	719-536-0438
Chaplain	Marion Daugherty	719-637-9555
Sergeant-at-Arms	Kim Brietske	719-266-8790



**Board of Trustees
2010-2011**

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 209
Calendar of Events**



- 1 Jul Post Executive Meeting 6:30 P.M.
- 3 Jul Post Involvement with Home Depot Woodman and Powers Blvd
- 4 Jul Independence Day—Please have Fun but be careful and be SAFE
- 10 Jul Breakfast 0900 A.M.
Legion & Auxiliary Meetings 10:00 P.M.
- 30 Jul Hamdogger and Winding Night 6:30 P.M.
- NO BREAKFAST OR MEETING IN AUGUST
- 4 Aug Coast Guard Birthday 6:30 P.M.
- 5 Aug Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 P.M.
- 21 Aug Post Picnic starting at 10:00 A.M.
- 2 Sep Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 P.M.
- 6 Sep Labor Day—the last of the Summer Post Open House 1:00 P.M.
- 11 Sep Breakfast 9:00 A.M.
Legion & Auxiliary Meetings 10:00 A.M.
- 18 Sep Air Force B-Day Dinner 6:00 P.M.
- 24 Sep Baby Back Rib Dinner 6:30 P.M.





From the Cub Scouts

John Brown

“Summer Vacation!!” Both Packs are on school break and are attending Summer Day Camp. At camp they will learn new skills and be exposed to many new crafts and ideas. When they come back in the Fall, they will have earned many awards and patches for their uniforms. Starting in the Fall it will be popcorn sales time, the largest money making project for the scouts.



From the Service Officer

John Brown

Watch out for Social Security scams. Recently, we have heard of a number of scams where individuals posing as Social Security employees call and ask for personal information like your name, Social Security number and bank account information. The caller alleges to need this information in order to issue you additional funds or rebates or they allege that because of a computer glitch, your personal information has been lost.

Another scam used is an email designed to look like it came from Social Security. It asks people to update their information – valuable information for identity thieves and criminals.

Social Security will not send you an email asking you to give them your personal information, such as your social security number, date of birth, or other private information. If you have questions, call Social Security office before giving out information.



Who Is That Guy?

At the Department Convention this year, we were all surprised when the Department Commander, Frank McCurdy called our Adjutant, Larry Johnson up to the podium. Larry on stage is no big surprise, but being called up for something other than raising a “Point of Order” during the meeting was somewhat unique.

(next column)

Each year at the Convention, the Department Commander considers all Legionnaires across the State and looks at what each Post accomplishes and who, if anyone was instrumental or key to the success of a Post or District. For years, our Post has increasingly improved and gained the attention of the Department for our support to Veterans and the Community. It was inevitable that Post 209 would eventually catch the eye of the Commander.

And that’s what happened at the 91st Department of Colorado Convention. Commander McCurdy, who has been a personal witness to many events and community functions hosted by Post 209, awarded the “Legionnaire of the Year” to our Adjutant, Larry Johnson. Larry has been an active and loyal member of the American Legion and our Post for more years than some members have been alive. He spends many long nights and weekends ensuring we are moving ahead and taking care of everything from membership processing to junk mail distribution.

You never have to wonder what is on Larry’s mind. Just give him about 30 seconds and he’ll tell you. He will normally base his opinions and ideas on what he truly believes is in the best interest of our Post and the members. You may not always agree with his way of thinking or readily embrace his ideas, but I have learned to respect the heart from where he speaks for the Veterans in the Colorado Springs community. He will always have the Post’s best interest foremost in his mind and thoughts, and for that we can all be grateful. Congratulations Larry on a job well done! We are proud to have the Legionnaire of the Year for 2010 on our Staff.



New Authors/Articles Next Month!

For those of you that normally attend our monthly membership meetings, you know we elected officers for the 2010/2011 year in May. In accordance with our Post Constitution and By-Laws, the new officers do not assume their duties until after the annual Department Convention. The Convention ended 27 June. Beginning with the next “Centennial” addition, you should see some new by-lines. I encourage all officers, both new and those re-elected to submit articles they feel would be of interest to our membership. I also encourage you to give us feedback. What do you like/not like? What would you like changed?

WHY I SHOULD KNOW AND UNDERSTAND MY VETERAN'S BENEFITS:

DO I LIKE THROWING MONEY AWAY? DO I LIKE FORFEITING BENEFITS THAT I'VE EARNED?

Hopefully, the answers to the above questions are NO and NO! If that's the case you need to learn about the Veterans Benefits you have accrued through your military service.

Here are just a few broad categories related to the benefits you've accrued that can save you money, provide desired services, provide peace of mind in the future and generally make life a lot easier once you transition to or have transitioned to civilian life:

- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Veteran's Pension Programs
- Veterans Life Insurance
- Veteran's Health Care
- Veteran's Disability Compensation
- VA Hospitals and Facilities
- VA Benefits Explained
- Survivor Benefits
- State Veterans Benefits Directory
- Specially Adapted Housing Program
- Special Monthly compensation
- Priority Group 8 Enrollment Calculator
- Parents DIC
- Homeless Veterans Programs
- Employment & Training
- Disability Compensation
- Dependency & Indemnity Compensation
- Death Benefits
- Burial and Memorial Services

These broad benefits categories are not very descriptive, but if you can log onto <http://www.military.com/benefits/veterans-benefits>, you'll get the full description of each one of these benefits. I have looked at this web site and believe you will find it interesting and helpful.

Please remember that the Service Officer as well as other members of the Post are available to help you with your VA claims or other actions concerning your VA benefits.

Please pass this information to other Veterans that you know.



Monthly Breakfast/Meetings

Our General Membership Meetings are on the 2nd Saturday of every month unless posted in the monthly newsletter.

Our breakfast, which starts at 9:00 A.M. prior to the General Membership meeting at 10:00 A.M. has proven to be a great success as those who have attended will certainly attest. It's the best \$8.00 deal in town.

This is a great way to start the weekend and best of all, Mom doesn't have to cook. No reservations are required.

We offer a great selection of food and fruits, however, the cooks and kitchen committee reserve the right to change the menu and surprise you with a selection of different dishes from time to time. Come on down and see what we have.



Hamdogger and Wingding Nights

The Hamdogger & Wingding nights are coming along pretty well.

Some of the ideas that have come up are: including a movie evening complete with popcorn for you, the family and your friends. One other idea that is being worked but we would like your input on is: We would like to pick a Friday evening each month to have this dinner on and we want to hold it on the same Friday every month. The advantage to this is that you the member would know which night it will be held on and can plan on attending.

Please contact us either by phone at 719-599-8924 and leave a message, email us, post something on our web site or the best way is visit a meeting and let us know what you think in person.

We need YOUR INPUT



Committees Need Your Help

With our new slate of officers beginning their post duties, I have identified some standing committees our Post needs in order to more efficiently manage our events and affairs. Most of them are identified in our Constitution and By-Laws. Those committees are:

- Program Planning and Social Committee
- Membership Committee
- Welcoming Committee
- Americanism and Youth Committee
- Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee
- Legislative and National Security Committee
- Public Relations Committee
- Club Committee
- Finance and Budget Committee

According to Article VII of our Post By-Laws, as well as the National By-Laws, each is responsible for the following:

The Program and Planning Committee shall be responsible for planning programs for the Legion year, preparing and submitting to the Executive Committee both short and long range plans for the conduct of post activities. This includes, but is not limited to, financial planning and fund raising, securing speakers for post meetings, and for planning post observances of national holidays and other significant community events.

The Welcoming Committee consists of two or three members who are asked to take on the job of welcoming new members, guests, or even older members who are not well acquainted, making them feel at home, and introducing them.

The Membership Committee shall be responsible for maintaining and increasing membership of the post. This includes, but is not limited to, conducting a vigorous recruiting effort to obtain new members and insuring the retention of old members,

The Americanism and Youth Committee shall be responsible for inspiring patriotism and good citizenship through patriotic observances, patriotic and civic instruction in schools, and similar activities. This committee shall also be responsible for post partici-

pation in such Legion programs as Boy's State, oratorical contests, and other Americanism and youth programs.

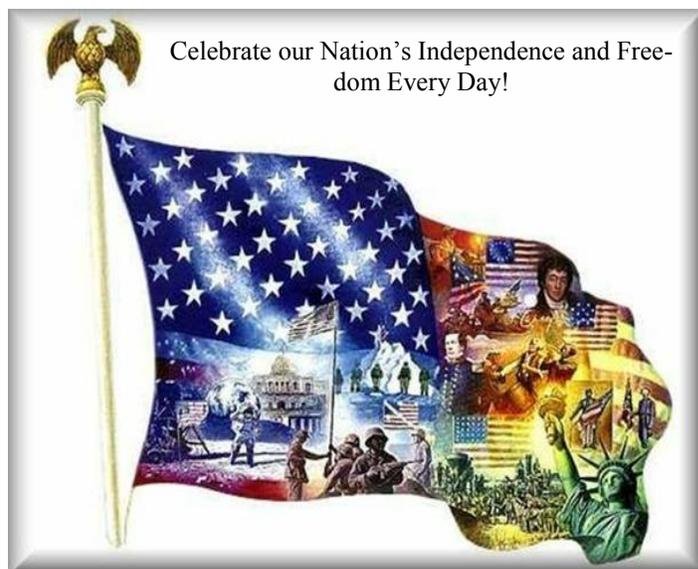
The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee shall be responsible for assisting post members and other veterans and their families in obtaining veterans' benefits to which they are entitled; for visiting comrades who are sick or disabled; and for keeping the membership informed as to veterans' benefits available to them.

The Legislative and National Security Committee shall be responsible for promoting public support of Legion programs and objectives, and for keeping the membership informed on legislation affecting the national security and veterans' benefits.

The Public Relations Committee shall be responsible for promoting public interest and support of post programs and activities through local news media, and for publishing distributing the post newsletter.

The Club Committee will assist the Club Manager on organizing events at the Post home and ensuring schedules are posted for all events supported by the Post.

For each of these committees I need 3-4 volunteers from the Post, Auxiliary and/or Sons. I will leave the details up to each committee on frequency of meeting, but I do not envision any committee meeting more than one time per month unless a special need arises. If you are interested, please see me at the next meeting on 10 July or send me a note at LegionnaireJay@yahoo.com





From the Adjutant

Larry L Johnson

The Department Convention has come and gone and we are getting ready to start another year in the life of The American Legion and Centennial Post 209 another year closer towards celebrating 100 years of Service to the community and Veterans.

As a Post, we were involved in a lot of activities that was hard to put together in a single Report.

I would like to thank all of you that turned in your activities reports. The activities you all were involved with and the time that you spent doing them is truly what it is all about. I am going to ask all of you again to please turn in your reports at the general meetings so that as the year progresses we can compile the report and not miss anything that was accomplished.

We finished the year at 510 members for 2010, which in case no one was paying attention we had a gain of 136 members from the goal that was assigned. This accomplishment is not just the result of the officers of the post but also every one of our members coming to the plate and showing that Centennial 209 is on its way to the top and that we are not going to stop. The Department and District have put our 2011 membership goal at 510. We are putting our personal membership goal at 526 minimum. This will give us an All-Time high for the Post.

We have 753 renewal cards for 2011. I know that if you will help as well as you did last year, I have all the confidence to say that with your help I'll have to ask for additional cards like I did for 2010.

Besides chairing the Newsletter committee the Commander has asked me to chair the planning & socializing committee for the upcoming year. Here is an opportunity for you to become involved by helping to plan activities and functions and to delineate what needs to be done. We are looking at activities that are not limited to picnic, dinners, initiations, but also kids activities, or anything else you feel might be of interest for the membership. It takes input from all of our 600 Centennial family members to run a Post. If you would like to help please come to the meeting on the 2nd Saturday and let me know. I would like to get some planning in the works.



The Crawford House

One of the programs our Post supports on a continuing basis is the Crawford House. I wonder how many people reading this article has heard of that program. Hopefully, the answer is several, but I fear it is few.

The Crawford House is under the Colorado Veterans Resource Coalition (CVRC). It is a non-profit organization, whose purpose is to serve and house homeless veterans (male/female) undergoing mental health treatment, and veterans undergoing alcohol/substance abuse treatment. They are a 501 (c) (3) organization, with a primary goal to provide assistance for our veterans who need and want assistance.

They are located downtown at 415 S. Weber. The Crawford House is named after (Medal of Honor Recipient) William J. Crawford who served during WWII in the US Army. The House features a 15 bed facility that houses male/female veterans; 10 beds for our homeless program in which residents stay for 90 days rent free while receiving extensive counseling, medical and mental health services, and job search assistance, and 5 beds are for our Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) classes conducted at the VA. They conduct random urinalysis and breathalyzer testing on their residents and have a zero tolerance policy on any contraband found during one of those random tests. The waiting list for the Crawford House prevents them from allowing anyone not committed to getting treatment to stay at the "House."

All residents live in an alcohol/drug free environment with structured rules, such as nightly curfew and bed checks, and room inspections conducted on a weekly basis. Residents are taught independent living and socialization skills. They receive medical and mental health treatment and job placement assistance. They are offered group therapy from a Licensed Practitioner Counselor at the VA. Transportation is provided for appointments and job searches. They work in collaboration with resourceful community agencies (disability preparation, VA, SSI, Soc Sec, A.N.D., El Paso County Dept. of Military Affairs, The Vet Center. And HUD Housing).

The next time you feel the urge to give, I strongly encourage you to consider the Crawford House. It is another way for a Vet to help Vets.



Coast Guard Birthday Dinner 4 August

The Post is going to celebrate the Coast Guard Birthday on Wednesday evening 4 August beginning at 6:30 P.M.

There will be a Spaghetti dinner that evening at a cost of \$7.00 (the menu is subject to change).

I strongly encourage you to make plans to attend.

As the Adjutant of the Post and the keeper of membership, I know we have more than 5 members of the Coast Guard and I need to remind you that you do not have to be a member of Coast Guard to come down and enjoy the evening with others.

Centennial Annual Picnic 21 Aug



There will be no breakfast or meeting in August, instead we will be hosting the annual picnic on Saturday, 21 August. The picnic is set to begin at 10:00 a.m. and go until everyone goes home.

The Post this year is going to supply the hamburgers, hotdogs, condiments, plates, etc. as well as the soft drinks. We are asking everyone to bring their favorite dish, dessert or whatever to enjoy with the rest of the crowd. When planning, please think about providing enough for 15 persons.

We are planning activities for all (children and adults), so pack everyone and bring them on down to the Post.

If you can, please bring comfortable chairs and any canopies that you might have so we can set up shade spots in the Yard.

Let us know if you plan on enjoying the picnic with members of the Post.



How important are R.S.V.P.'s

To many of us, RSVP does not mean anything to us. We have the inherent feeling that people who are planning things should know that we will be there and as such should buy food, drink, provide entertainment etc. Often, we have every intention of attending and don't send in an RSVP and we show up and hope they have enough food, etc. on hand to serve.

When I started in The American Legion, the 1st thing I learned was to make sure there was always food on hand at a function. The problem was afterwards because there was always food left over. We found that we couldn't take the leftover food to the homeless shelter because it wasn't cooked by people in the food industry and as a result it went to waste.

Some will argue and say well we have a kitchen, a refrigerator or a freezer, and that is correct. However, just like at your home, there is only so much you can freeze and store before you run out of space and then you end up throwing the food away anyway.

There is a lot of work that goes into planning an activity whether it is a Spaghetti Dinner or a New York Steak Dinner, Rib Night, or Hamdogger Wingding Night. There is the planning, buying, cooking, serving and finally cleanup. It doesn't happen overnight.

All of this boils down to PLEASE, when you read the newsletter whether in hard copy or email, take a look at your calendar, make plans to attend and annotate it on the calendar and let us know how many will be attending so we can plan and ensure we don't overbuy or heaven forbid, under buy.

Imagine if you were planning a party and assumed you knew who was coming, so you let everyone know about it and bought all the stuff, and then "BAM!" NO ONE SHOWED UP. It would make for a lousy day and party. That's how we sometimes feel when we plan for 10 and 30 show up, or plan for 30 and 10 people come to the party. In either case, we waste your money and time and effort.

Please think about this as we go through to plan activities and let us know when you are coming. It will be more enjoyable for all of us if you do.