

The Centennial



VOLUME 26 EDITION 7 JULY 2012
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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander Jay Bowen

I haven't done the research, mainly because I hate research and it seldom agrees with my assertions, but I believe May-July timeframe is second only to Christmas for gift giving. Until recently I never thought much about it, but for some reason this year it really hit home. Between Mother's Day, Graduations (both High School and College), Weddings, Father's Day, and the occasional Birthdays resulting from some cold Octobers (you do the math), the Greeting Card companies and gift stores must be ecstatic to see this quarter come around.

There's something about giving and receiving gifts that doesn't make sense. Obviously, I can't speak for everyone, but many people feel very uncomfortable when they are given a present. They stammer for some words of thanks. Many times they feel compelled to say something and "thank you" often winds up sounding stupid or even hurtful; all done because we feel uneasy. "Wow, this is nice! I saw it the other day and thought about buying it, but decided it would be a waste of money. But thank you so much!" Or, "Instead of buying me something I don't need, why not use the money to pay off bills?" My favorite is short and sweet and goes something like this; "You really shouldn't have!" They mean it too, because the gift will go in a closet only to see the light of day when the person visits. Yard sales are the #1 place to find stuff that never should have left the Pottery Barn. They are a treasure trove for people looking for something to give Aunt Susie celebrating her 87th birthday. Another phenomenon that seems to revolve around gift giving is receiving something unexpectedly and feeling compelled to reciprocate. I love it when someone says, "Oh man, I left your present sitting on the counter at home. I'll bring it to you tomorrow." That really means, "Crap, now I have to stop at Walgreens on the way home."



Why can't we just accept a gift in the spirit for which it is meant? Most people don't give a gift because they feel they have to; they do it because someone has touched them so profoundly they want to reward or recognize the person(s) with a token of thanks or appreciation. Let them do it! I don't think I have EVER given anyone anything expecting something in return. Matter of fact, if I believe they will feel they must also return the favor, I won't get them anything. www.Dictionary.com defines the word 'gift' as "something given voluntarily without payment in return, as to show favor toward someone, honor an occasion, or make a gesture of assistance." Is there anything in that definition that says you must reciprocate in kind?

Think about this; we have all been given so many gifts we can NEVER repay them. We have a loving God that gave us life eternal. We live in the greatest country in the world. Many of us (definitely me) are blessed with a loving family. We enjoy a level of freedom that most of the world cannot even comprehend, which we celebrate every 4th of July (honestly we should be doing that every day). If we want to give something back, we should be doing it for these things, not because someone gave us a Vase. When was the last time you felt you should be giving back for all the gifts you have in your life? It's not too late to start.

If I haven't said it to you before, let me just say thank you for the gift of friendship and camaraderie. I can never repay you for what you give me, but I'll never take it for granted.

For God and Country,
Jay



**Auxiliary President
Jackie Bowen**

I would like to thank Nancy Stoffer for visiting with us at our last meeting. Nancy met Mike & Jean Chladek & Linda O'Riley at the Memorial Service at TREA. They invited her to come to our meeting to see what we are all about. Hopefully she will become a member of our Auxiliary and Legion family. Ladies, this is all it takes to get new members for the Auxiliary.

Start talking with someone and tell them about us. July 1st starts our membership push for 2013. Let's all try to bring in at least one new member. Again, I ask no more than a member can or wants to give to help/participate in our Auxiliary and Post events and programs. As our membership grows, so does our voice in Washington. We want to raise our voice louder and louder when it comes to issues affecting us and our Veterans.

Last month I sent out a "call for help" for one of our members. The response was great and I would like to thank everyone that stepped in to help. This kind of action is just one of many that makes our Unit not a group of members; we are a family. I wish everyone a safe and Happy 4th of July.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly,
Jackie Bowen



**Sons of The American Legion
Squadron 209**

The Sons of The American Legion General Membership Meetings are on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 12:00pm.

There is a breakfast at 9:00am that everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

We are heavily involved with one program right now. That program is the Child Welfare Foundation. We are raising money by having little colored pigs on the tables of the dining area at the Post. We ask for your support on this project and others as we grow our Squadron.

We are starting the 2013 membership year. You do not have to wait until you receive the dues renewal notice from National to renew your dues. The only thing required is for you to take a moment get a check or money order for \$20.00 made out to Squadron 209 and mail it to American Legion Post 209, P.O. 25334, Colorado Springs or go to the Post website at www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org and renew using PayPal.

We look forward to meeting or seeing you at our next meeting 14 July at 12:00pm.

If you have questions or would like more information please email us at the Post website.

Thanks



Early Bird

Does anyone know what an Early Bird is?

An Early Bird is a member of the Junior Auxiliary, the Auxiliary, a member of The Sons of The American Legion or a Legionnaire who has either renewed, joined or transferred in to the Post with their 2013 membership paid by 15 October 2012.

A couple of benefits for renewing your membership early is that you won't receive any more notices to renew your membership for 2013, and if you are a new member your membership will not expire until December 2013.

One of the other benefits for joining, renewing or transferring prior to 15 October is that you will enjoy a FREE Early Bird Dinner in October. The final arrangements have not been set yet, but as soon as the date and time are confirmed, the information will be posted in *The Centennial* and on our Web site.

So be an Early Bird, and then make plans to keep your Saturday evenings clear to reap one of the many benefits of membership.

We promise; no worms!



Post Officers 2012-2013

| 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 | Rusty Bower | 682-478-9122 |
| Chaplain | Chet Dean | 719-244-2442 |
| Sergeant-at-Arms | Don Shuck | 719-575-0539 |
| Historian | Mario Taracena | 719-638-1258 |
| Post Executive Com- mitteeman | Neal Thomas | 719-392-1510 |
| Service Officer | C. "Gunny" Raines | 719-597-4766 |
| 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 2012-2013

| 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 2012-2013

| Term (Years) | Name | Telephone |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| President (3 yr) | Neal Thomas | 719-392-1510 |
| Commander (1 yr) | Jay Bowen | 719-574-1223 |
| Finance Officer (1 yr) | Rusty Bower | 682-478-9122 |
| Member 3 Yr | Norman Moyer | 719-392-3725 |
| Member 3 Yr | Alton Cyriaque | 719-495-4732 |
| Member 1 yr | Chuck Zeitvogel | 719-531-0546 |
| Member 1 yr | Bill Marshall | 719-495-0088 |



Sons of The American Legion 2012-2013

| | | |
|--------------------|------------|--------------|
| Commander | Bob Ribisi | 719-638-2603 |
| 1st Vice Commander | Ron Setter | |
| Adjutant | Don Shuck | 719-575-0539 |
| Finance Officer | Ken Taylor | 719-495-8190 |
| Chaplain | Chet Dean | 719-244-2442 |



Centennial 209 Family Calendar of Events

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 5 Jul | Honor Guard—Presentation of Colors at Sky Sox Stadium; Game Follows |
| 6 Jul | Hamdogger Wingding Dinner 6:30pm |
| 7-8 Jul | Membership Booth—Rustic Hills North |
| 14 Jul | Breakfast 9:00am Legion/Auxiliary Meetings 10:00am SAL Meeting 12:00pm |
| 20 Jul | Steak Night 6:30pm RSVP! |
| 21-28 Jul | El Paso County Fair Membership Booth |
| 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 Legion/Aux. 10:00am; SAL 12:00pm Membership Booth Rustic Hills |
| 17 Aug | Steak Night 6:30pm RSVP! |
| 24 Aug | Fish Fry 6:30pm RSVP! |
| 6 Sep | Post Executive Committee Mtg 6:30pm |
| 7 Sep | Hamdogger Dinner 6:30pm |
| 8 Sep | Breakfast 9:00am Legion/Auxiliary Meetings 10:00am SAL Meeting 12:00pm |
| 15 Sep | All Patients Day—Pueblo VA hospital |
| 17 Sep | Air Force Birthday Dinner 6:30pm |
| 21 Sep | Steak Night 6:30pm RSVP! |
| 28 Sep | Fish Fry 6:30pm RSVP! |



Do You Want to be Published?



Anyone who would like to submit an article for *The Centennial* is 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

Fish Fry Friday

Our Fish Fry is the 4th Friday of every month at 6:30pm.

We would like everyone to please make a reservation in advance of the dinner and let us know how many will be accompanying you for this night of food and fun. Reservations help keep our costs low so we can offer these great deals.

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.

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 Centennial* 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* and news of possible interest.

Please, if you are moving and you are filling out the notifications provided by the Post Office, send us a card or an email. We don't want you to miss out on any information.



Guest Speaker 14 July 2012

At The July Legion meeting, Ms. Jeriann Ascione from the Veterans Administration will be our guest speaker. She will be bringing us up to date on the new CoS VA Clinic among other things.

I am sure she will also be able to answer some of your VA-related questions.

Don't forget there is a breakfast prior to the meeting at 9:00am. I hope to see you there.



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



From The Service Officer John Brown

Money Sense:

How do you identify a fraud? That is a question everyone has come up against. If you have a bad feeling (gut check), don't do it. Here are some rules to follow, which will hopefully keep you from being had.

Don't agree to anything over the phone or online

Check out the seller with the Better Business Bureau or the state's Attorney General's office

Get any promises in writing

Do business with a reputable business

Before you sign anything, make sure you understand the details, if you don't ask and if that funny feeling is in the pit of your stomach, don't sign.



El Paso County Fair

The El Paso County Fair will run from the 21st of July to the 28th of July in Calhan.

At The District 7 Convention in May, we decided we would have a membership booth for the American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion.

Post 209 is a member of District 7 and we are asking for volunteers to help man the booth during the day or evenings of the Fair. You do not have to be there every day or all day and all night. If you can volunteer for a few hours just let us know when and what time you will be available to work. If you are working the booth you do not have to pay the entrance fee for the Fair.

Please call Chet Dean at 719-244-2442 or Gunny Raines at 719-597-4766 or Larry Johnson at 719-622-0344 and let us know when you can be AVAILABLE.

Let's join the fun at the Fair!



**Club Manager
Art Kimbrel**

As we proceed into the new American Legion Year, many things are going to be going on and we are looking for your participation in the various activities and dinners that will be offered.

If you have any ideas of what kind of meals would make you bring yourself, your family and friends down to the Post for an evening of relaxation and good friends.

Please let someone know what you think.

See you at the dinners. Remember, make your reservations as soon as you can.



**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.

**You're Invited to a THE POST WILL HOST
A 4TH OF JULY PICNIC
FROM 10:00am UNTIL
WHENEVER.**



The Post will be providing the hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, condiments and sodas.

We are asking you to bring a side dish or a dessert that will serve yourself and possibly 3 to 4 others.

If you would like us to cook something other than hamburgers and hotdogs, please feel free to bring your choice of meat and we will cook it for you.

This event is open to children of all ages, and we will attempt to have games for them to play.

We will start cooking at 11:00am in order to serve around 12:00pm.



RSVP!

Folks, you may be tired of seeing this plea, but every month we have people just show up at our dinners without first calling. The problem with doing that is you take a chance of NOT getting a meal because we are trying to save the Post's money by ordering only what is needed for the meals. If we have extra food, we'll gladly serve, but if we don't and you didn't RSVP, you may not eat. Please call in advance to ensure you will be served. RSVP's have priority!



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



Membership Drive

The Post has been given an opportunity to man a membership booth at the Sertoma Gun Shows about 6 times a year.

Basically, the set up is handled by the Adjutant on Friday and the Gun Shows start at 9:00am on Saturday and Sunday.

I am asking for help on the 7th and 8th of July to maintain the booth at the Gun Show held at Rustics Hills North.

If you can help, please let us know by calling 719-599-8624 or send an email to centennialtwozeronine@yahoo.com

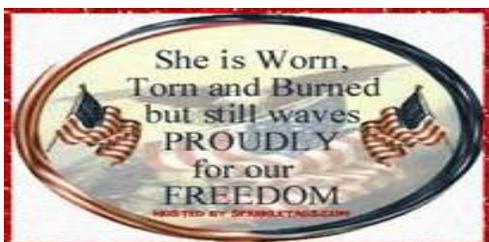


Post 209 Honor Guard

The Post Honor Guard was formed in July of 2011. Currently, our Honor Guard consists of eight Legionnaires led by our Chaplain, Chet Dean and they are busy getting the name of The American Legion and Centennial Post 209 in the spotlight. They have participated in many flag presentations and openings at gun shows, craft shows, etc.

In January 2012 our Post Honor Guard partnered with "Wheelchairs For Veterans" and since that partnership, they have gotten at least three wheelchairs for members of our Post and the community.

Chet is the contact person for Southern Colorado and has numerous things like walkers, crutches, canes, powered wheelchairs and other pieces of medical equipment. All equipment is checked out for safety and is cleaned and disinfected before it is given out.



From
The Scouts
John Brown

Scouts:

Crew 1911 met recently and had an archery range set up for the young adults. They meet the second Wednesday at the Post and are still looking for young adults between 14 and 21, male or female to join the shooting focused crew associated with the Boy Scouts of America.

Pack 24 recently completed their summer camp at Woodland Park. We had an unexpected visitor at 2:45am. A bear was in the camp and I think the scouts and parents learned a valuable lesson. If you leave apples and hot cocoa out, the bear will make a snack out of it. No one was hurt and I hope we have a happy bear. The boys will attend a summer camp and other outings will continue throughout the summer.

Pack 386 recently met at the Post and settled on the plan of events for the upcoming year. We got it done over pizza and soda in one session. This is a great accomplishment over last year where it took two or three meetings to get agreement. Just goes to prove things go better with food. The pack will start meeting in August after the summer fun, and the first business of the year will be recruitment and POPCORN. September and October are the POPCORN sales months and the packs will be visiting the Post to let you help them grow.

How did you like the young servers last month? The boys enjoyed it and have it on the agenda for every month in the coming year. If there is anything the scouts can help any of you out with, let me know.



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



From the Adjutant Larry Johnson

Well here it is, we are in July and that starts the new membership year. You should be receiving your membership renewal cards for 2013. Please remember that if you transferred to the Post after 1 April, you will receive a renewal notice from your old Post. Please disregard that card and if you want to renew just prepare a check or money order for \$35.00 made to American Legion Post 209 and send it to American Legion Post, P.O. Box 25344, Colorado Springs, CO, 80936

The Department has a membership program called C.A.M.P.P. which may be of interest to many of you. Below is an excerpt from the Department describing the program.

C.A.M.P.P.

It is that time of our American Legion Year again – 1 July we will be asking everyone to renew and pay their 2013 dues. Let's all be Early Birds and pay our dues in July and August. To give everyone a choice, The American Legion State of Colorado are first again in the Nation to help our members.

1 July we introduce our new program; Department of COLORADO ADVANCED MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT PLAN (C.A.M.P.P.). The Program will be administrated through the Department. Lock-in your dues and eliminate annual dues notices. Just make one payment now and enjoy the convenience of not paying your dues each year. C.A.M.P.P. will process your dues each year and send you a new card. It is easy, just tell your Post you want to sign up under C.A.M.P.P. or just call the Department and tell them you want to be a member of C.A.M.P.P. You can pay by check or use your credit card.

C.A.M.P.P. is a simple and convenient method of paying your dues in advance to lock-in your current dues rate and avoid receiving those annoying annual dues notices in the mail. To join C.A.M.P.P all you need to do is pay your annual dues in advance for 3, 5 or 10 years. It's that simple. When you join C.A.M.P.P. the cost of your dues is guaranteed for the term you choose. You don't have to worry about your Post dues increasing while you are with C.A.M.P.P.

Each year in July C.A.M.P.P. will automatically pay your dues for the following year to National, Department and your Post and send you a current Membership card. You will never be delinquent and even better you will not receive dues notices in the mail.

Current Legion members can join C.A.M.P.P. by paying dues for 3, 5 or 10 years in advance along with a small 10% administrative fee.

For example, if your Post dues are \$35 and you want to join C.A.M.P.P. for 10 years, your cost is \$35 times 10. So for only \$350.00 your dues are paid up and you are protected from any dues increase for 10 years.



Wheelchairs For Disabled Veterans

Wheelchairs for Disabled Veterans is a program started by Jack Levinson of VFW Post 9741 out of Firestone, CO.

The program is an ongoing drive to collect donated scooters and electric wheelchairs and get them to Veterans who need them. It doesn't matter if your disability is war-related. It just matters that you served and you need help now. There is no cost to take part Jack said, and only one requirement. When the chair's no longer needed, let him know so it can be made ready for the next Veteran. If you would like to donate to the program or suggest a Veteran to help, you can call Jack Levinson at 303-666-4522 or 720-938-4993 or by email at jlengineering@aol.com.

Wheelchairs for Disabled Veterans and Jack have partnered with the Special Adaptive Housing. They adapt housing to accept our donated power wheelchairs and scooters by widening doorways, adding ramps, lifts, etc. They are a 501 (c) (3) non-profit.

On 14 July at University Village located at 5400 N. Nevada Ave. in Colorado Springs, there will be a fundraiser and Car Show from 11:00am to 3:00pm. Please come down and talk to Jack and support this event.