

The Centennial



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AUGUST 2011

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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Jay Bowen

I drive a 15 year old Ford F150. I bought it brand new off the showroom floor. It had less than 20 miles on it and every bell and whistle available on a pickup at the time. It has 4-wheel drive, leather seats, and electronic everything. I drove it hard for several years and was not very good about performing preventive maintenance because it was new and handled extremely well. For our equestrian members reading this, you could say "I rode it hard and put it away wet!" Fortunately for me, the truck is well built and withstood the years of abuse and now it is less than 5 years from being considered a classic by automobile standards.

I've had a change of heart about that truck. I no longer ignore the maintenance recommendations published by the maker. I get the oil changed on time or early. The little noises I hear from the rattling are sought out and tightened as quickly as possible. One of the leather seats has been re-upholstered and looks as good as new, as does the overhead. The exterior is a little faded and probably needs a paint job or at least a Detail. There are a few leaks coming out of the exhaust, but nothing to be concerned about and the radio speakers are starting to vibrate some. So I put a little more TLC in the truck than I did 15 years ago because I know it is necessary as the truck ages if I want to keep it. But I still would not hesitate to jump in and take it cross-country. It is a very dependable mode of transportation.

How like that truck are our bodies. When we are young, we believe we are invincible and most of us live that way. We don't go to the doctor or dentist with any regularity. We take chances and often put our body at risk of injury.



Later in life, we develop noises and exhaust leaks (some louder and more often than others) and parts begin to wear out on us requiring replacements. We rattle more than we did when we were younger. Our speakers vibrate and the sounds are not as clear as they were a few years ago. I could go on and on about the drive train and radiator, but I think you get the analogy. But as we get closer to becoming a classic (no, I don't mean 20 years old; more like furniture that becomes a classic at 50), we realize the necessity to take a little more care and slow down some. Our exterior fades and probably needs to be Detailed or possibly some paint. We begin to visit our doctor more often and ingest more chemicals to cleanse and extend the life of our parts. We do those things because we realize we can't abuse our bodies as we did when we were in our teens and 20's and we want/need to do anything we can to ensure we last a little longer. We start looking more closely at the guidelines from our Maker and develop a better sense for how we should live.

If you haven't been to a doctor lately, I urge you to make an appointment. Tell your doctor (as I did) that you are either becoming a classic or are one already and realize a classic requires a little extra love and preventive maintenance. Have your doctor set you up for a series of scans and tests to ensure your "engine" and transmission are running at optimum and all the other parts are doing okay. Don't wait for things to wear out, break or stop before going.

The older a truck gets, the harder it is to get going again when things start shutting down. If that happens, we always have the option to go and buy a newer truck and put the old one in the junk yard. This is where the similarity ends.

For God and Country,
Jay



Auxiliary President Jackie Bowen

I would love to see every eligible spouse of Post 209 Legionnaires join our Auxiliary Unit.

As we continue to strive toward this goal, let's welcome Natasha Ross, Jodi Wallace and Diane Robinson, our three newest members. Natasha called & left a message asking how she could help and get involved; she soon found out. Jodi joined us during the Department Convention and that was even after she helped during the Convention. Diane joined after visiting our Post home with her husband Marty.

We are starting our membership drive for 2012. Let's sell, sell, sell our American Legion Auxiliary to all that are eligible for membership. Remember, you do NOT need to wait for your renewal from National to arrive in your mailbox. Speaking of National renewal forms, the printers misprinted them again this year causing a delay in receiving them. Hopefully, they will be here sometime in August. Remember if you renew or join before Oct. 15th you are eligible for the Early Bird dinner, provided at no cost to you.

A simple thank you does not begin to touch on the wonderful help we had during the Department Convention. I was asked several times how we were able to get so many volunteers. My answer was "because we have the best members around."

If you missed the picnic, you missed some great food and camaraderie. I'm sure no one left hungry, but if they did it was their own fault.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly,
Jackie Bowen



Thoughts From Marion

Dear Members,

We had a pretty good turnout for our annual July picnic. When our members and friends began to show up they just kept on coming. It was great.

As I sat at the table listening to the conversations around me, I began to remember the 4th of July when I was growing up. Our parents would buy the fireworks, they approved of. We never had any rockets, but sparklers, firecrackers and cap guns. Before we could use any of these, Mother would go over the safety features about them. We played with a few of the sparklers, but most of them were saved until after dark. We four children would put the sparklers in different designs into the ground. Then all of us would light the sparklers and watch them make the design. We did this until we ran out of sparklers. When cap guns began to burn children's hands, they were banned. I believe the companies put more powerful gun powder in the caps after we children grew up. Firecrackers were usually set off by my brother. He would put the firecracker under a can and we would all watch the can fly into the air.

All of that was unlike today. Even though there are laws that prohibit firecrackers being set off in town, there are those that still do it anyway. I don't recall any fireworks displays that people could observe. During the time I spoke of, there were periodic air raids and black outs. Planes would go over the city and drop off cardboard boxes that made a sound when they hit the ground. The air raid wardens would come around to each house and tell us when the all clear came. Thank you for letting me share some memories.

The next event that I am looking forward to is the All Patients Day at Pueblo. It is very interesting to watch the residents of the home go from booth to booth and win a prize. If you have not attended one of these events, plan to go to the next one. It is scheduled to be held on Saturday, 17 September. Continue to check "The Centennial" and our web site for updates.

I will close with a thought for the month: Any Housewife, no matter how large her family, can always get some time to be alone just by doing the dishes.

Marion



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	719-638-8805
Sergeant-at-Arms	Don Shuck	
Historian	Gideon Diamon	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: americanlegionpost209@yahoo.com

Web Site: <http://www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org>



Auxiliary Officers 2010-2011

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Jackie Bowen	719-574-1223
Vice President	Linda O'Riley	719-599-3818
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Mary Grier	719-536-0438
Chaplain	Marion Daugherty	719-637-9555
Sergeant-AT-Arms	Lois Wooton	



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	Frank Maellaro Sr.
Adjutant	Frank Anderson
Finance Officer	Ken Taylor
Chaplain	Chet Dean



Centennial 209 Family Calendar of Events

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
18 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
16 Sep	Steak Night 6:30pm
17 Sep	Air Force Birthday Dinner 6:00pm
6 Oct	Post Executive Committee Mtg 6:30pm
7 Oct	Hamdogger, Wingding Dinner 6:30pm
13 Oct	Navy Birthday 6:30pm
15 Oct	Early Bird Dinner-Free to all renewed members (conditions apply) 6:00pm
21 Oct	Steak Night 6:30pm
29 Oct	Annual Halloween Party



COAST GUARD BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

You are invited to the celebration of the Coast Guard Birthday, Thursday, 4 Aug beginning at 6:30pm.

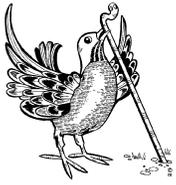
Dinner will be choice of Roast Beef or Turkey for \$10.00 per person. Please call Jackie Bowen 719-574-1223 or Lynn Thomas 719-439-6268 with your reservation.

Post Committees

The Commander is looking for Legionnaires to serve on standing committees needed to help run the Post smoothly.

The Committees and the duties are on the webpage for those who can access it. If you have questions on what the committees are, please give us a call at 719-599-8624 and leave a message. We will return your call as soon as possible.

Please give some thought to serving on the committees; they are not time-consuming, and we need your expertise.



**The Early Bird Dinner
15 October 2011
6:00pm**

It has been said many times that “the Early Bird gets the worm.” Well, we are changing it a little bit, the Early Bird Gets a free dinner on Saturday, 15 October at 6:00pm.

What is an Early Bird someone asked? The answer to the question is, all of the following who joins or renews for 2012 with Post 209 prior to 15 October: Life Member, a Paid Up For Life (PUFL), new members, transfers with 2012 dues paid to Post 209, a member of Post 209 that renews for 2012, American Legion Unit 209 Auxiliary new members and/or renewals as identified above, and The Sons of The American Legion (SAL) Squadron 209 as identified above. Reservations must be made for the free meal.

This ticket is good for **ONE FREE MEAL** for the Early Bird Dinner.

You must make reservations by calling Jackie Bowen at 719-574-1223 or Lynn Thomas at 719-392-1510 and you have to bring your 2012 membership card.

When you renew your membership you will receive a card like the one displayed above. It will be in the envelope when you receive your 2012 membership card.

For guests or those who wish to attend and don't qualify as an Early Bird, the cost of the meal will be \$12.00 per person.

For reservations, call Jackie Bowen at 719-574-1223 or Lynn Thomas at 719-439-6268. If you have questions please call 719-599-8624 and leave a message.



VA Bans Mention Of God At Funeral Services

This year as in the past, a Memorial Day ceremony was planned at the Houston National Cemetery in May to honor those who died in the service of our country. This time the cemetery director attempted to prevent a pastor from using the name of Jesus in his invocation. The director demanded a written copy of the prayer for review and approval prior to the ceremony. Afterwards, she instructed the Pastor that “The tune of the prayer must be non-denominational to keep it fitting,” in other words, politically correct. The sad thing was that her superiors at the US Department of Veteran Affairs agreed. It took a Federal Judge to stop and block this assault on the Christian Religion. Judge Lynn Hughes in a strong language stated: “officials were essentially decreeing how citizens honor their Veterans.” The censoring and discrimination of religion violates the freedom of speech guaranteed in the first amendment of our Constitution.

For sometime VA officials have been forbidding the mention of God and requiring prayers to be submitted for approval before a funeral. They even went so far as to require volunteers to remove from condolence cards given to the mourning families the words “God Bless”.

Because of this ongoing hostile attitude, plus new allegations of discrimination, the Liberty Institute filled court papers (lawsuit) against the VA and the Director of Houston National Cemetery on June 28th. This joint lawsuit was filed on behalf of the VFW District 4, The American Legion Post 586 and the National Memorial Ladies. It claims that government officials are “engaging in religious viewpoint discrimination in violation of the First Amendment and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act by adding new incidents of Religious Hostility.” Judge Hughes gave the government until July 15 the respond.

The American Legion is giving full support of the case and will be filing briefs as “friend of the court”. Those of you Legion members, who want to stand with our fellow Veterans, please ask our Colorado Congressmen for an investigation of these abuses. In the words of the VFW District 4 Commander, “all we wanted was to give honor to fallen soldiers.”

God Bless America
Mario Taracena



**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.

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 lose 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 either Jackie Bowen at 719-574-1223 (home) or jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com or Lynn Thomas at 719-439-6268.

UMBRELLA SALES

The word has gotten out about our Umbrella fund raiser pictured below. They are \$15 each, and features include:

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



**From Scouts and Service Officer
John Brown**

Can you believe summer is almost over and the kids are going back to school? I saw a sign that said "School starts 2 August." Well, most of the Packs' boys have been to summer camp and their first meetings will be in September. Each pack will be presenting awards to the boys during their first Pack meeting. Pack 386 has changed their pack meeting to the first Tuesday of the month at 1830 at the Post home. If you want to see awards presented and excited boys that would be the time.

Both Packs have agreed to help serve at the monthly breakfast on the second Saturday of the month. This is part of their service to the community and the American Legion. Meet and greet the boys, and let them help you if you desire. It's a new thing so there will be some hiccups I'm sure. We have enough Dens that there should be a group of different boys each month. I have invited the parents to join us for breakfast or to just help their boys if they desire.

Last week, Venturing Crew 1911 adults met at the Post home and worked on a plan to recruit boys or girls into the Crew. They are also looking for adult NRA coaches or instructors to help with the Crew. They are looking to having a training session for instructors also. More news to follow.

Service Officer:

The VA released new rules May 9 that will allow more caregivers of wounded warriors to apply for new benefits enacted last year. The caregiver benefits include special training, mental health services, access to CHAMPVA health insurance, respite care, and a stipend.

Earlier, the VA proposed overly tight restrictions that would have limited the benefits to approximately 850 caregivers. In the wake of protests from associations and legislators, the VA adjusted the rules to roughly quadruple the number of potential eligible to 3,500.

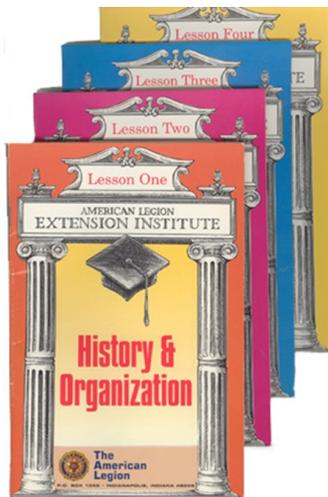
Disabled Veterans must meet specific criteria for their caregivers to receive benefits. The disability must be a serious injury, including traumatic brain injury, and must have been incurred or aggravated in the line of duty on or after Sept 11, 2001. *(taken from MOAA magazine July 2011)*

**From the Senior Vice Commander
Mark Krzczowski**



**Sons of The American Legion
Squadron 209
Frank Maellaro**

As a new member of The American Legion and the new Sr. Vice Commander, I would like to take a minute to discuss the American Legion Extension Institute course our Commander asked me to take when I joined Post 209. This course has four lesson books with a final examination. It starts with the History and Organization of the Legion, lesson two is Service Divisions and Sections, lesson three is Americanism, Children and Youth and Public Relations and the last lesson covers Legislative, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Economic, National Security, and Foreign Relations Programs. The Final Examination is 58 questions. I passed the final exam and received my Certificate of Completion signed by our National Commander and a graduate hat pin. As a new member in the American Legion, this course gave me a better understanding of what the American Legion is all about.



As we start our 2012 recruiting drive, let's all keep in mind the four pillars of service the American Legion was built upon in 1919; Defense, Veterans, Youth and Patriotism. Lets all make a goal to bring in one new member into our great Post.

As reported earlier this year, the Squadron has gained 19 members which will allow the Squadron to become active again.

The following members of the Squadron have stepped forward to fill the following positions.

Commander: Frank Maellaro
Adjutant: Frank Anderson
Finance Officer: Ken Taylor
Chaplain: Chet Dean

When would be a good time for you to meet with the proposed officers? You can get together and make plans for future meetings and event planning. Please email me at maellaro@comcast.net.

It's time to renew your 2012 membership. Cost is \$20.00. Mail it to the Post or go on line to www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org

Thank you, Frank

RSVP SPECIAL

Make an advance reservation for the Steak night on 18 August and receive a special discount. With advance reservation and the coupon below, you get a steak at the regular price of \$10.00 and the second for a price of \$8.00.

Please note the change for RSVPs. Lynn Thomas and Jackie Bowen have taken over to try and relieve some of the workload from the Post Adjutant. You can contact Jackie at (719) 574-1223 home, or jack-iebowen2005@yahoo.com. Lynn's contact number is (719) 439-6268. Present the coupon below with your order.



**COAST GUARD
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

You are invited to the celebration of the Coast Guard Birthday, Thursday, 4 Aug beginning at 6:30pm.

Dinner will be choice of Roast Beef or Turkey for \$10.00 per person. Please call Jackie Bowen or Lynn Thomas with your reservation.

A graphic for a 'STEAK NIGHT COUPON'. It features two images of seasoned steaks on the left and right sides. In the center, a blue box contains 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 August and with a reservation made in advance.'



From the Adjutant Larry Johnson

The Department of Colorado has instituted a new membership plan.

At first glance it seemed a waste of time, but after a third review it might not be a bad program.

This program allows you to pay your dues for 3, 5, 7, or 10 years to the Department. One of the advantages of this program is that you pay in advance for the years you elect, and it freezes those dues for those years you select. For example: if you were to pay for 10 years, that would be 10 x \$35.00 for a total of \$350.00 (there is an additional 10% processing fee, which in this case would be another \$35.00, bringing the total to \$385.00). Other advantages of this program are your membership would continue, you would not receive any dues renewal notices from National, and if there was a dues increase during those years you are protected from the increase during this period. You would get a letter from Department each year informing you how many years you have remaining. At the end of the period you've chosen, you will receive another opportunity to renew at the current dues rate.

For more information please contact the Post at 719-599-8624 and leave a message and I will get back with you.

As of the writing of this Newsletter article, which is 15 days into the new membership year, there have been 22 Legionnaires who have renewed through National and their membership card has been mailed. In addition, I have mailed out membership cards to 200 Legionnaires. We have 50 Legionnaires who are Paid Up For Life and Permanent members who have also received their membership cards.

If you renew through National, I will send you your membership card for 2012 as soon as I am notified of your renewal.

With all of the options there are to renew, I would ask you to remember that you can also renew your membership for 2012 through our Post webpage at www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org. This will offer you a chance to look at the web page if you have not already done so.

Commemorative Air Force

The Commemorative Air Force is flying in a B-17G to the Colorado Springs Airport and CUTTER AVIATION on 8 August, and it will be there through 14 August to participate in the reunion of the 381st BG Veterans who flew B-17s in World War II. A walk through tour of the B-17G is free to all World War II Veterans, active duty military and Cadet's in uniform. There are also walk through tours for adults at \$5.00 per adult and \$3.00 for children. Cutter Aviation is located at 1360 Aviation Way, Colorado Springs, Co 80916.



The Patriot Flag

Our Post was honored to help sponsor and bring to Colorado Springs the Patriot Flag. This is an effort that began almost a year ago to honor our Nation's First Responders who gave their life during 9-11. This program also honors all members of the Fire and Police Departments across the country still serving and who have served, as well members of our Armed Forces, both current and past. The one-day event was held at Sky Sox Stadium on 18 July. It was an amazing site to see this 57 1/2 foot long, 75 pound flag hoisted between two Fire Department Ladder Trucks. The flag will visit 50 States in 50 weeks, culminating with a final showing at Ground Zero on 11 September this year. Look for more photos on our web site.

