

The Centennial



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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Jay Bowen

We had a great turnout for the monthly meeting in July. I would like to think everyone came to see and hear me, but I know better. They were there to see our Miss Millie and listen to her regale us with her childhood and time in service of our Country as a WASP. If you missed it, you missed hearing a major part of our American history. If you were there, you were very fortunate indeed. Thank you Miss Millie for sharing a little piece of your life with us.

We also had several folks step up and volunteer to lead and/or participate in a few of the standing committees we identified earlier. If anyone else is interest in supporting by giving up just a few hours each month, let me or Larry Johnson know. We'll get you involved in one of the committees that are one or two people short.

We are starting the 2011 membership drive with a bang! Larry and Norm have already processed approximately 150 renewed or new members for 2011 since 1 July. All of us should have received or will receive the 2011 renewal notice (unless you are a PUFL). Renewing early does not cheat you out of anything. Your American Legion membership is from 1 January to 31 December, no matter when you join or renew. So if you renew now for 2011, it is good until 31 December 2011. Renewing early will ensure your Legion magazine subscription is also renewed and prevent you from missing one or more magazines. It also helps the in-coming National Commander make an intelligent assessment regarding his budget for his year.

Speaking of new members, I have added two new members for 2011. How are you doing? I plan to



President's Column

Jackie Bowen

If you weren't at the July meeting, you really missed a special time. We joined the Legionnaires for opening session so we could hear Miss Millie speak. She treated us with a wonderful lesson on her life and history as a WASP.

It's that time again. We started our 2011 membership drive on 1 July. Please send renewals in so that we can them processed. Our Unit received a certificate from the National Auxiliary President for doing so well on our membership for 2010. Once again, we would love to have the wife of every Legionnaire at our Post as a member of our Unit. We understand totally if you can't make the meetings or volunteer but we would love to have you as part of our organization.

On another matter of membership, Department has raised their portion of membership dues for 2012 by \$2. We will be discussing the possibility of raising our 2012 dues at our September meeting. National will also be raising their portion of membership dues for 2012. None of this will be effective until July 2011. Of the \$20 dues we collect our Unit keeps \$6 and sends \$14 on to Department.

July 31st we will be folding pocket flags again at the Post. We will begin about 11:00 a.m. If at all possible please join us. This time we have 600 flags to fold but knowing their destination makes it worthwhile. For those of you that don't know we give them to the deploying troops.

Please join us for our annual picnic August 21st. We will be at the Post so even if it rains or turns cold (yes we have had several picnic days spoiled by cold



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

Jay Bowen

continue talking with Veterans and adding new members. I want to throw a challenge out to you. If anyone can beat me bringing in “New” members between now and 1 October, I’ll buy you and one other person a dinner at a near future Post function. You may already be down by two, so let’s get it going. Larry will keep score.

I would like to share something I continue to encounter when talking with folks. There is hardly a month that goes by when talking with a Veteran, I am asked the question, “What is a Veteran?” It may not be asked just that way, but it carries the same meaning. It has come in the form of “So what is your definition of a Veteran?” or “How would you define a Veteran?” Regardless of the way it is presented, it is the same question and it is asked for the same reason; there is confusion about how a Veteran is defined. I attribute much of this confusion to the media and the way they constantly add adjectives to Veterans. You will see and hear references to “Vietnam War Veteran,” or “Iraqi War Veteran,” or any other number of adjectives to describe a Veteran. I’ve even had a few people tell me, “I used to be a Veteran, but that was years ago.” Do you know what a Veteran is? The definition of a Veteran is simply “A person who has served in the Armed Forces.” That’s it. It doesn’t matter when or where you served or in what branch. Now, with that said, membership into organizations such as The American Legion restricts membership to those “Veterans” that served honorably during time of war or conflict. You didn’t have to serve in Theater, just during the period. Those dates are printed on the blank membership form you keep in your pocket, wallet or purse. If you’re not carrying at least one around with you, please let us know and we’ll get you a few. It makes signing up new members much easier when you have a blank form. I’m sharing this with you because as you go out and recruit, you will invariably encounter this question.

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 “Veterans Helping Veterans!”

Jay Bowen — Commander



President’s Column Jackie Bowen (cont.)

weather) we can still enjoy the food and fellowship.

Don’t forget the annual Ice Cream Social at McCandless Veterans Nursing Home in Florence August 7th. Our Unit will also be taking tube socks and t-shirts to the patients that day.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly,

Jackie Bowen — President



From the Chaplain Mario Taracena

The Lord has called the following Legionnaires to Post Everlasting:

Marlowe Sorge
Clifton Holland
William Knupp
Glenn Olson

All of these Legionnaires will be missed by The American Legion and their families. Please keep them in your prayers and thoughts.

Our Junior Vice Commander and Assistant Chaplain Chet Dean and his wife Elaine, an Auxiliary member are on their way to the MAYO Clinic for some medical examinations on Chet. Best of wishes to them and hope things look brighter in the future and please keep in them in your thoughts and prayers.





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



30 Jul	Hamdogger and Wingding Night 6:30 P.M.
31 Jul	<u>Auxiliary Pocket Flag Folding see Auxiliary note</u> <u>NO BREAKFAST OR MEETING IN AUGUST</u>
4 Aug	Coast Guard Birthday 6:30 P.M.
5 Aug	Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 P.M. Vietnam: Gulf of Tonkin 1964
6 Aug	Hamdogger and Wingding Night 6:30 P.M.
21 Aug	Post Picnic starting at 10:00 A.M.
2 Sep	Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 P.M. Japan Signs Surrender 1945
3 Sep	Hamdogger and Wingding Night 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.
17 Sep	POW/MIA Recognition Day
18 Sep	Air Force B-Day Dinner 6:00 P.M.
24 Sep	Baby Back Rib Dinner 6:30 P.M.
1 Oct	Hamdogger and Wingding Night 6:30 P.M.
7 Oct	Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 P.M.
9 Oct	Breakfast 9:00 A.M. Legion & Auxiliary Meetings 10:00 A.M.
15 Oct	Deadline for Early Bird Membership Renewal
23 Oct	Early Bird Dinner — Make your RSVP NOW
30 Oct	Halloween Party 6:30 P.M.



From the Service Officer
John Brown

VA Sec Shinseki and Agent Orange Advocates Get Win on Expanded Agent Orange-related Illnesses, Obtain Court Order to Publish Agent Orange Presumptive Rules by Monday, July 19

- Victory for [VA Secretary Shinseki and Agent Orange Victim Advocates](#) -

The top administrative law court overseeing the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) [has ordered VA Secretary Shinseki](#) to publish the [new Agent Orange Presumptives rule](#) which expands the range of ailments attributed by the VA to Agent Orange exposure.

The [judicial order](#) by the D.C.-based appellate court, [United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit](#), is dated July 15, 2010 and is issued in response to a *writ of mandamus* (a court-ordered directive to a public body like the VA or lower court) petition (No. 949) by the [Paralyzed Veterans of America](#) and other parties.

The [order](#) is a victory for Agent Orange advocates and for Shinseki hailed as “championing funds to assist Veterans and their [families affected by Agent Orange](#).”

The order for the publication of the rules comes weeks after the efforts of Sen. Jim Webb (D-Virginia) to delay the implementation of the new rules, an enterprise which drew the [wrath of veterans around the country](#), and which drew the petition to the [United States Court of Appeals for the Federal](#)

Program and Social

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 even.

As Chairman of the above committee, I need volunteers who want to work and bring new ideas to our Post and organization.

If you would like to do this, please attend a meeting or function and let me know, or contact me by sending an email to the Post or leaving a message at 599-8624.



From the Cub Scouts
John Brown

The scouts are at Camp and they are having a blast with all of the activities that are going on.

While they are away, their leaders are coming up with plans as to what the scouts are going to do, the projects that they will be involved with and most of all the scouts are ready to help support the Post on Veterans days and by doing activities at the Post. They are getting excited about the upcoming fundraising activity “POPCORN SALES” and they are looking forward to asking our help once again later on this year.



THE CENTENNIAL
(The newsletter)

The BIG QUESTION I have been wondering about recently is WHO IS or WHO IS NOT receiving the monthly newsletter either by mail or by electronic mail on a consistent basis?

There are several possible reasons you may not be receiving the Centennial. (1) Are you coded incorrectly in our membership data to receive a newsletter (if there are two or more people with the same address only one (1) newsletter will be sent out)? (2) Are you coded to have an email and you have discontinued your email service and we don't know it? (3) Do you have a new email address (we are still sending to you're your old email address)? (4) Is your Internet Service Provider (ISP) preventing the delivery of your emailed newsletter (such as is the case for AOL)? I receive many notes from members complaining about our email correspondence. With mass emails such as we do at the Post, AOL considers them as junk email and one time it is stopped, and maybe the next time they will let it through.

In any case if you ARE NOT receiving “THE CENTENNIAL” each month, please send let us know. We can update the mailing list or work with



the American Legion Vice Commander
Paul Ray



Breakfast/Meetings

I was appointed as the Senior Vice Commander by Commander. I did not have any idea of what I was getting into, but the Commander and the Adjutant said there was support in getting the job done. They were right, the support of you Legionnaires is astounding.

WOW, I was told by the Adjutant that the Post is already close to 50 percent of goal already. He indicated that we have 12 new members and 139 renewals and when you add the Life members and the Paid up for Life (PUFL) we are on the fast track to again achieving history in the Department of Colorado.

I would like to say thanks to all of you who have joined or renewed your membership for 2011 already and ask all of you to don't stop sending in your 2011 memberships. We need them to show Department and all of the others Posts we are not stopping to take names this year. I urge each of you to talk with your family, your neighbors, your co-workers, your fellow church members and yes even your plumber, ask them if they served and if they say yes, ask them if they belong to The American Legion. If not, pull out your membership application and sign them up. Get them involved and see where our Post goes and what we accomplish this year.

See you again real soon!

“The 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 a 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 AmLegion209@base.comcastbiz.net and to john8936@msn.com by the 15th of every month. The Adjutant and Commander reserve the right to edit articles as needed for content and length.

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.



The Hamdogger & Wingding nights are coming along pretty well.

We have looked at the times the Post has been rented and from the responses we got, we think that beginning in August the 1st Friday night of every month will be “HAMDOGGER AND WINGDING NIGHT W/PORK TENDERLION SANDWICHES beginning at 6:30 P.M. Mark your calendars and come on down and join us, don't forget to bring the kids).

Movie night w/popcorn will follow the dinner. Come and see what is playing.

Bumper Pool Anyone

Anyone interested in playing Bumper Pool? Does anyone even remember how to play Bumper Pool. If you remember and you know how, the Post has a Bumper Pool Table just waiting to see if you can beat it. The table is saying come on down and see if you have what it takes to win. The table is taking on all comers. Don't be last.



From the Adjutant Larry Johnson

I wanted everyone to know that you really tried to make me work very hard as the Adjutant for another year. Yes, I did have to work, but it only took me two days to get the over 130 memberships I received in less than 4 days. National surprised me as I didn't think they would mail the membership renewals as early as they did this year. Just the same I am now prepared to handle whatever you Legionnaires throw at me.

Now, don't get me wrong when I say this but we keep hearing about the forgotten war and the fact that it has been 60 years since it started, however, I believe that the Department of Defense needs to get off their duff and start promoting the fact (as far as the Department of Defense is concerned) that the Vietnam War unofficially started in 1960. We know that there were military stations in Vietnam as far back as 1954 (documented) and some earlier than that.



Early Bird Dinner

What is the Early Bird? The Early Bird is a Legionnaire, Auxiliary Member both Junior and Senior, and a member of The Sons of The American Legion (SAL) who have renewed their membership or joined The American Legion family before 15 October 2010. Legionnaires and SAL will have their cards stamped as early bird.

What does it get? It gets you a FREE dinner on Saturday, 23 October beginning at 6:00 P.M. If we get enough advance notification of your attendance maybe we can have a dance after the dinner.

Once you get your card and it is marked EARLY BIRD and you plan on attending please RSVP so we can ensure there is enough food. Non-members and members who have not renewed their membership early are also welcome to attend, but there will be a cost of \$7.00 for the meal.



From the Historian Crystal Weller

As the new Post Historian I thought that I would say Hello and Howdy to all!! Fortunately, I was elected as your Historian for Post 209! Most of you are asking, "Who is she?" Well, I have been a member for 9 years or so. I attended the last Christmas Dinner that was held at the Post and since I carry my camera with me 98% of the time, I snapped lots of photos. Guess who asked me if I would like to be the next Historian? Did you figure it out, yet? Our illustrious Commander! What a great job that would be, I thought to myself. What a great opportunity to meet fellow post members.

Documenting various activities in our Post and in the District are essential to keeping our Post's history preserved. Most people enjoy seeing their photo posted on the wall, in the newspaper, or here in the Centennial. These photos and records are a great way to acknowledge those who have participated in events and activities in our community. By carefully protecting and preserving these memories, the Post can carry out the traditions. Many have heard, "the future can only be judged by the past," as stated in The American Legion Office's Guide.

To everyone who can possibly give some time by volunteering, and getting involved, our Post would greatly appreciate it. Who knows? Your smiling face may end up in a future edition of the Centennial. I hope to meet everyone, eventually. Thank you for your confidence clearly shown to me due to your votes. See ya soon!

Don't forget the PICNIC

Saturday, 21 August

beginning at 10:00 A.M.



1st Battalion 22nd Infantry “Regulars by God”

The history of the 1st Battalion 22nd Infantry (1/22 Inf Bn) goes all the back to 1869 when it was formed. Since then, it has seen more than 100 plus years of combat.

I say this because I served with the 1/22 Inf and for the past year since their move from Fort Hood to Fort Carson, the Post has provided some needed support to the families of the Battalion.

The 1/22 Inf Bn is once again getting ready to go back to combat in Afghanistan and is being led by LTC Clay Padgett, a member of our Post.

I’m asking all of you of to the keep the soldiers and their families in your thoughts and prayers as they go over the pond again and hope for the safe return of all of the soldiers of the Battalion.

Throughout the year while they are deployed, there will be updates posted.

Thanks

Larry

VA Blue Water Claims Update

The VA continues to update the list of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships that have been presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange. If you served on a ship or was tied up at the dock in Vietnam and wondering if your ship is listed, we will try to get the list on our website.

If you do find your ship listed and you have had a claim denied, you should reapply citing the VA List for your application. (This is from the NAUS weekly update 25 Jun 2010).

Military Discounts

Blue Star Museums is a partnership among Blue Star Families, the National Endowment for the Arts, and more than 750 museums in all 50 states to offer admission at no charge to military personnel and their families from Memorial Day, 31 May 2010 thru Labor Day, 6 Sep 2010. The admission program is available to any bearer of a Geneva Convention command access card (CAC), or a DD Form 1173 ID Card, or a DD Form 1173-1 ID Card, which includes active duty military (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard), National Guard and reserve members and up to five immediate family members. For a listing of the museums, what they have to exhibit, contact info, hours of operation, and locations refer to www.arts.gov/national/bluestarmuseums/index.php. (Source NAUS Weekly update 9 Jul 2010)

AID & ATTENDANCE

Aid and Attendance is a benefit that many veterans are not aware of or for which they do not make use. To find out if you are eligible you can go to www.vba.va.gov/bin/bln/21/pension/vetpen.htm#3 (Source: www.Mass.live.com 8 Jul 2010)

New Medallion Benefit

Upon request, the VA will provide a medallion to be affixed to an existing privately purchased headstone or marker to signify the deceased’s status as a veteran. The medallion is provided in the place of a government headstone or marker for veterans who died on or after November 1, 1990, and who have a grave in a private cemetery with a privately purchased headstone or marker. It comes in 3 sizes, 5 in, 3 in, and 1/12 in. It has VETERAN across the top and the branch of service at the bottom. Below are examples of the medallions.

