

# The Centennial



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## From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Mike Barger

Once, again, I'd like to start off by acknowledging all those that have stepped up this last month and volunteered their time to the Post. That includes people from the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders. A big thank you from myself and the executive board goes out to you all.

November is Membership Retention Month. National Commander Charles Schmidt challenged the Legion as a whole when he came to visit our Post in September that he'd like to see every Legion member recruit a new member. With that said, I challenge every member of this Post to do just that. It's an honor to tell people that Colorado Springs is home to the largest Post in the state. We have a target on our back this year, and I'd hate to see that taken away. We knew coming into this year, that getting folks to renew was going to be tough with the increase in dues at the beginning of the year, but we need to continue to push forward with renewals.

Now the question is, "Why is the Legion having a hard time recruiting the younger generation"? The answer is they seem to be in their own little world, and it's hard to talk to them, for they want to be left alone. Also, the younger generation seems to be burnt out on the military structure. This causes them to distance themselves as far away from the military as possible when they get out. We need to recreate our image to remain relevant and show the younger generation that the perception they have of a dim smoky bar with worn pool tables and bingo nights is not true. We need to show them that we're not that type of place. One way to do this is using social media. That is a key element in communicating with the younger service members and if they see what we stand for, what we do and how we do it, we will see greater interest from the younger generation. We need to show them we're a family oriented place where they can come and enjoy a meal on a Friday night, and come to a monthly breakfast/meeting and meet other vets who all felt the same way once. But we also need to look at ways to possibly getting this Post open more days of the week, so the newer generation sees we do more than just meetings and dinners.

A big thing we're doing is competing with other organizations to win their membership, like the VFW, DAV, TREA, just to name a few, and we need to show them why the Legion is the one to join. Nothing wrong with belonging to multiple ones, but we need to draw them to the Legion. One Veteran asked me "Why should I join the Legion when I'm already a member of 2 other Veteran organizations"? Here's where I let them know that the Legion was created on the basis of the 4 pillars, (DAVY) Defense, Americanism, Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation, and Children and Youth. If they believe in those, there shouldn't be any reason not to join the Legion. A question I had asked to me was, "Why should I join the Legion and pay dues when I'm already being helped through the VA without being a member"? I told them you don't need to be a member to receive the benefits from the VA, but the VA benefits are benefits that the American Legion fought so hard to get for the Veteran and now we need your help in lobbying Congress to protect and save them. Your membership counts, and Congress sees it as one more vote for Veteran benefits. Remember, if you can get one to sign up, you should be able to get 2 to 4 out of that new member especially if the Veteran is married. You have an Auxiliary member in the wife, and if they have kids, you have SAL or Junior Auxiliary, and the Veteran himself, if his father or grandfather served. Membership starts at the local level. All it takes is to get a few younger members in and we can then tailor programs to attract more, and I know it can be done.

Happy Thanksgiving from my family to yours and please keep our troops in harm's way in your thoughts and prayers while they are away from their family this Thanksgiving.



### From the Unit 209 President

Cathy Barger

Thank you Ladies for sending in your membership renewals so promptly. We're almost to the halfway mark. Please remember that if you haven't renewed by Dec 31st National will consider you delinquent. Don't forget Nov 5th is the annual Veterans Day Parade. Also, at 7:30am Nov 5th, we will be downtown to decorate the grandstands and stage. If you would like to help with that please let Jackie or me know.

We have a lot happening in the next couple of months, so be sure to read the calendars and call if you have any questions. Butter Braids will be delivered Nov 9th. If you placed an order and want it for the holidays, be sure to mark your calendars for pick up.

Also we are doing the Rada cutlery orders again, this will run until November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Happy Birthday to Gail Binder, Ashlyn Cancellieri, Brenda Cortese, Emilie Cunnington, Riley Flewelling, Joann Howard, Helen Hunter, Jazimine Kozlowski, Hazel Kula, Rose Loewe, Wendy Wood. Make sure to wish these ladies Happy Birthday when you see them.

The ALR dinner for November is Ham, Potatoes, Vegetables. Please come down and support the riders, and make sure to RSVP.

Happy Thanksgiving! Serving Our Veterans Proudly!

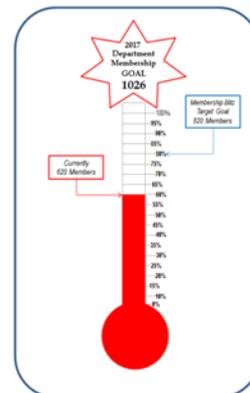


### From the Senior Vice Commander

Lino Calica

The 3R's (**RECRUIT**- New members, **RETAIN** - Existing Members, **REBUILD** - For the Future.)

As of this writing, the Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 membership is at 620. This includes new and existing members who have renewed their membership for fiscal year 2017. That puts us at 60%; we are 20% shy of meeting the Department membership blitz goal of 80%. Mahalo (Thank You) to all of you for taking time in talking to your family and friends about the American Legion. Post 209 cannot prosper without our awesome members. Let us all work together in helping all the programs in Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 meet and exceed our 2017 membership goals. Let us go into the community, find those Veterans and their families, and invite them to the many events and programs we offer.



As the holiday season approaches, let's go out there and help others in the community. The Riders started gathering food items in August; their goal is to help generate 26 food baskets for families during the holiday season. Any contributions is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions or ideas that will help in the membership drive, please feel free to contact me. My phone number is in the Legion website, [www.Legion209.org](http://www.Legion209.org) and at the next to last page of this newsletter.

The key to growth and success of Post 209 is to lead by example and to serve the needs of our Veterans and their families.

Mahalo nui loa, (Thank you)



### Yum, Yum, Eat'em up!!

#### Butter Braid Sale



Auxiliary fundraiser time again. Tell your friends, neighbors, and your neighbors' friends about the sale. Orders must be made no later than November 4<sup>th</sup>. Delivery date is November 9<sup>th</sup>. Make checks payable to ALA Unit 209. The price is \$13.00 per braid and payment must be made before the delivery date. Call Jackie Bowen, (719) 574-1223, to place an order over the phone and then mail a check to her or discuss receipt of payment when you call. Thanks for supporting your Auxiliary.

#### FLAVORS:

Caramel Rolls (9 rolls), Cherry, Apple, Blueberry, Cinnamon, and Strawberry and Cream Cheese.



# AMERICAN LEGION POST 209

THE PREEMINENT VOICE FOR VETERANS • COLORADO SPRINGS, CO



## WALK OF HONOR

### Buy A Brick Fundraiser!

If you have attended some of our meetings over the past several months, you may have heard us discuss plans for a new fundraising effort. We are partnering with Polar Engraving to offer our members, family, friends, and our corporate Veteran-friendly supporters an opportunity to purchase an engraved brick to adorn our landscaping project we are working. The bricks are engraved using a hybrid method that combines both laser engraving and sandblasting. The engraving is then painted using the same paint used on tombstones so it's extremely durable. Here are the details/answers to questions we anticipate:

- **What Are We Having?** A Brick Fundraising Event
- **Why?** To Further Funding of our American Legion Programs and Offset Increasing Costs
- **What Size Are the Bricks?** We are offering 4"x 8" or 8"x 8" bricks for individuals, and 8"x 8" or 12"x 12" bricks for our corporate supporters.
- **What are the Costs for the Individual Bricks?** Prices range from \$75 to \$200, depending on size, style and lettering desired. For the 8x8 or 12x12 bricks, you can add a second emblem. Contact the Adjutant for ordering details. There is **NO** additional cost for the second emblem on the larger bricks.
- **What are the Costs for the Corporate/Veteran Supporter Bricks?** Prices range from \$125 to \$500, again depending on size, style and lettering.
- **What is the Difference between Individual and Corporate Bricks?** Individual bricks are identified for Veterans, and family members of Veterans wishing to purchase a brick to honor their Veteran. The corporate bricks are for our Veteran-friendly supporters and businesses who wish to show their continued support to our Nation's heroes by purchasing a brick.
- **Is the Brick Purchase Restricted to Members of the Post 209 Family?** No. We encourage members to buy a brick for themselves as a lasting memory of their association with Post 209. We also welcome anyone to purchase a brick for their Veteran loved one, or to show their support to our Veterans.
- **Can I Buy a 12"x 12" Brick for Myself/Loved One?** Absolutely!
- **Where Do I Go to Buy a Brick?** Visit <http://polarengraving.com/ALPost209> to buy your brick. The site is very user-friendly and will walk you through the design and purchase. You will be able to see a preview of your brick before finalizing the purchase.
- **How Do I Pay For the Brick?** We have the site setup to accept payment via PayPal or by check. PayPal is an extremely safe way to purchase a brick and you don't need a PayPal account to use it.
- **Where Will the Brick Be Shipped?** All bricks will be shipped to the Post. We will notify you when it arrives and you are welcome to stop by and see the brick you have purchased.
- **What Will Become of My Brick?** It will be placed near the Flagpole at the Post and will be part of the landscaping design we are working. If you are a landscaper or know a good one (preferably a Veteran), have them contact our Adjutant.
- **How Long Will this Fundraiser Effort Last?** We plan to only sell as many bricks as needed for the first phase of the landscaping project. Currently, that is anticipated to be 600 bricks, but that number may change depending on brick sizes purchased and the final design approved by the Post.
- **Will I Have an Opportunity to Buy a Brick Later?** Quite possibly. It depends on what is decided/ approved for the next phase of our project.

Order your brick(s) now to ensure you get one in Phase One of our project. If you buy multiple bricks, let our Adjutant know and we will make certain they are all placed together.



## FOURTH ANNUAL TURKEY SHOOT FUNDRAISER

### ARE YOU ABLE TO PUT THE TURKEY ON THE TABLE? COME GIVE IT A TRY AND SUPPORT OUR YOUNG GUNS JUNIOR SHOOTING PROGRAM

Win your Thanksgiving turkey! You are invited to a Turkey Shoot sponsored by the Young Guns of American Legion Post 209. This event will be held at the Post on Steak Night, November 18th starting at 1900. There will be three categories, one for youth ages 7 through 12, one for youth ages 13 through 18 and one for adults over age 18. For a \$5 donation, you will get 5 shots from the unsupported standing position from a distance of 25ft. The highest score in each category will win a turkey! Scoring will be governed by the rules spelled out in the American Legion Junior Shooting Guide and any tie will be resolved with a shoot off. You will shoot an air rifle used by the Junior Shooters and the event will be judged by our NRA Certified Instructors. Be sure to RSVP for that great steak and support our Junior Shooters by participating in our 4th annual Turkey Shoot!

Please RSVP for the Turkey Shoot by calling Ken Taylor at 719-761-4047 or email [commander-sal209@gmail.com](mailto:commander-sal209@gmail.com). You can also sign up at dinner on November 18<sup>h</sup>.



**From the Service Officer**  
Lyle Hagelberg



#### **It's Never Too Late!**

We have a feeling that we can wait to do things until it is too late. The word for this is 'procrastination'; putting off today something that can be done tomorrow. I remember in the military that performance reports (efficiency reports, or whatever) came around once a year or when someone changed jobs. The once a year reports were programmed yet they seemed to slip up a person who would wait until the last minute to get them up to the boss. No matter how positive you were that next year the reports would be on time they seemed to sneak up and at the last minute there was the big rush to get them in to the boss.

I know you are not interested in my military history but there is a 'method to my madness'! How many of you know where your DD Form 214 is filed? How many of you have told your Next of Kin (NOK) where this very important document is filed. This comes about because just last month one of our Veterans passed and there was a hurry-scurry to find his DD Form 214 to prove his military service so that a Military Honor Guard could be requested. That is not the time to make your NOK start digging through those piles of paperwork you said you were going to take care of as soon as you had the chance. This isn't the military, and you don't have that last minute to get them up to the boss. You'll be gone and your people will be left with the heartache. And, you can't put it off until tomorrow.

Dig out that DD214 and make sure it is in a prominent place, even in a picture frame so all can see. Be proud of it! It will make life much easier for those who come after you.



## **From the Jr. Vice Commander - Why Do I Believe an American Should Be Armed**

Bob Caddell

The history of the US started with the citizens defending themselves from all forms of evil. The armed citizen defeated the crown of England. They fought brother against brother in the Civil war. Citizen soldiers defended the borders of the southwest. Ordinary men and women fought the worst kind of evil in Europe and the Pacific. Citizen soldiers have fought the wars of the United States. Some feel the Military are the heroes of the country but in my humble opinion, all Military personnel are citizens and all citizens are Military, defending the just laws of the United States. You must make a choice to stand, and be counted or be buried by some evil. Realize that the bad people use the element of surprise and no armed citizen can fast draw to that. You should be on guard and ready to lay down your freedom for the love of your family, country and flag.

It makes no difference what your age, race, color or creed; to be an American means to be ready to defend yourself and others from evil. Understand; I do not condone the evil put upon any race that was seen as inferior by small-minded men and women. They fought and died as Americans. They are our brother Veterans from the Revolution to the Civil war. During WW1, Officer Aaron R. Fisher, received as high of honor in medals as Sgt York of Tennessee, but because of his race, the US military did not recognize him. In WW II the fighter Squadron 332 (Red Tails) escorted more bombers to Berlin than other fighter escorts. Whether by intent or ignorance the US military was bigoted. I do not believe in hyphenated Americans either. Keep your heritage and your beliefs but call yourself an American first.

We are almost all immigrants to this country, only a select few are aboriginal Americans. Some came voluntarily. Some did not. Some put their life on the line to defend the country when called upon to take up arms. We had the native scouts, the Buffalo soldiers, the Irish brigade, the Navajo code talkers, and the Tuskegee Airmen, the Canon Ball express the Army Company that moved the much-needed supplies during WWII.

You can believe that your Government will look out for you. Nevertheless, to believe such is not knowing or understanding the foundation of the Constitution of the United States. "We The People", not, "We the Government". Recently, a Judge of the court stated that the Founding Fathers were not psychic and could not foresee the technical advancements in firearms so the Constitution and the Bill of Rights both need to be thrown out. If we were to throw out the Constitution then we would not only loose the right to bear arms; we would loose the right to free speech, to all the freedoms fought and died for by our great Veterans.

The police are not always there when you need them. The average response time is 15 minutes. By then you and your loved ones are no longer. Step up and start taking responsibility for yourself and family's protection.

If you do not agree then that is fine. That is why we believe in and swore to defend the Constitution. As a Veteran I stand for you, by the right for your opinion and be armed or not. I would expect the same consideration from you. After all, we are Americans with unalienable rights.



## **From the Adjutant**

Marvin Weaver, Jr.

November is a busy month for The American Legion. We have the Veterans Day Parade on November 5th, which leads up to the Saluting America program with the local schools during Veterans Day week. The Honor Guard will be presenting colors and we will have Veterans speaking at the schools. On Veterans Day, the ALR will provide the rifle squad for the Pikes Peak Veterans Council Veterans Day Service held at TREA at 11am. If you are able to help out with visiting one of the schools please contact Eric Testorff.

The December Membership meeting will not be in the morning as normal; we will be having a Post Christmas Party instead. The Post Christmas Party will be on December 10th and rumor has it that Santa will drop by for a visit. If you are bringing a child to the party we ask that you bring a wrapped gift for Santa to give to them.

Department is running a contest to help in recruiting new members. For every new American Legion member you recruit your name is entered in a drawing. They will have a drawing on each of the national target dates; giving away \$100 each time. The more new members you recruit the more chances you have to win.



# **DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE FROM THE VA? Help has Arrived**



**What?** Our American Legion Department Service Office will be in Colorado Springs the 4th Saturday of Every Month during most of 2016.

**Where?** Centennial Post 209 at 3613 Jeannine Drive.

**Time?** 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

**Why?** To assist our local Veterans with Claims and to Provide Information Related to Their Medical Benefits.

## **FAQ:**

**Do I have to be a member of The American Legion?**

No. We Will Offer Assistance to Any Qualified Veteran.

**Do I need an Appointment?**

No, but it is Recommended. Call 303-914-5585 to Make an Appointment, but Walk-ins are Welcome.

**What Do I Bring?**

DD214, as well as the following that pertains to your situation: Marriage Certificate; Divorce Decree; Death Certificate; and any Civilian Medical Records.



**Tell your Veteran Friends and Neighbors!**





## From the Historian

Eric Testorff

Dr. Gregory Smith, Past Post Commander of Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209, has been named the local Chairperson and Point of Contact for the 2017 American Legion High School Oratorical Contest.

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the US Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. The program has featured numerous politicians and prominent contestants over the years, including former president candidate Alan Keyes and CNN anchor Lou Dobbs.



**Greg Smith**  
520-784-3555  
gregoryvedd@me.com

Over \$138,000 in scholarships can be awarded each year. The overall national contest winner gets an \$18,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$16,000, and third gets \$14,000. Each Department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest's first round receives a \$1,500 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional \$1,500 scholarship. The American Legion's National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States.

High school students under the age of 20 are eligible. For more information, download the PDF document posted at: [legion209.org/news/oratorical\\_2017/](http://legion209.org/news/oratorical_2017/) or contact Dr. Gregory Smith at [gregoryvedd@me.com](mailto:gregoryvedd@me.com).

*\*\*Rusty Bower's column to bring a little "salt" to the post.\*\**



## Origin of NAVY Terminology Rusty Bower



### Mail Buoy Watch

Old salts (seasoned seamen) will send a sailor on the mail buoy watch, particularly if they are experiencing bad weather. A sailor is outfitted in the appropriate weather gear including a helmet and life jacket. They are also harnessed to a safety line on the weather decks topside near the bow and given a large hook.

They are told that normally a ship or a mail plane (COD) arrives with all of the mail. However, the sailor is told that this cannot be done due to the weather, so he must use a pair of binoculars and watch out for a mail buoy. They will need to hook onto it and bring it aboard. They are also advised that if he/she fails to do so, fellow seaman will certainly not be happy with him/her.

Usually, the old salts took photos of the sailor's "get up" before they head to the fo'c'sle (most forward part of the ship for you landlubbers) and waits in the inclement weather, often for extended periods, to spot the buoy.

### **However, the "mythical" mail deliverer will never arrive!**

The victim of this 'hazing' prank usually realizes at some point that he has been had. If not, one of the old salts will likely take pity on them at some point and let him/her in on this practice.

**To this day, many a sailor has been the victim of this prank whereby they stand on mail watch for buoys that never arrive!**

### More Information From the Finance Officer

We had our ATM replaced. This ATM is the latest and greatest they have with all the updated technology. There are a few differences with this model. It dispenses money in \$10 increments. The usage fee is still \$2.50. There is one very big difference to note....inside the stack of \$10 bills, there are a couple of hidden \$20 bills. You might just be one of the lucky ones to get an unexpected \$10 bonus when you use our new ATM.

Also, for you retired Sailors, there is a website available with information for retirees. This includes TRI-CARE, retiree pay, assisted living, medical appointments, Point of Contact phone numbers, reunions and much more. I think if you have the time it's really worth checking out. The website is [www.shiftcolors.navy.mil](http://www.shiftcolors.navy.mil)



## From the Judge Advocate

Larry Johnson

The definition from the Internet for the word 'VOLUNTEER' is a person who does something for another person or organization willingly and without being forced or paid to do it.

For some of us we started volunteering before grade school when we said yes to flag football, t-ball, ballet, soccer etc. In grade school we volunteered to stay after school to clean the chalk boards in the hope we would gain favor or because the teacher was hot. Then as we progressed we started volunteering for class president, debate society, baseball and other things because we thought we were good or we could create change.

After high school our first "I DO" in many cases was when we went into the military and then "I DO" became a habit.

While in the military or after we were asked to become a member of The American Legion and we said "yes". We volunteered because in some cases that is what was expected of us. We also know that there are many reasons why we volunteered to become a member of the largest Veterans organization in the world, The American Legion: some it was because it was a patriotic thing to do and we did it; some it was because we wanted to say that we were a member of The American Legion and we were proud of being a part of an organization that was so prestigious; some of us joined because we wanted to wear a different color hat or wanted to say that we held that position; and some of us volunteered because we wanted to make a difference and we tried in many ways for many years and we still believe that we can make a change for the better, helping veterans and their families and fellow Legion members. But we have learned that while there are many reasons for joining an organization, there are just as many reasons for not getting involved.

It takes many Legionnaires, Auxiliary Members, Sons of The American Legion and American Legion Riders to make our organization great and we do so in many ways but it seems like it is always the same ones who do the work and are involved and we accept that but at the same time we know that so many others should get involved and help get things done. The thing of saying we don't know what to do because no one tells us what to do is just an excuse.

I say that because we are all leaders and as leaders we don't need to be constantly reminded of what needs to be done. In other words, as leaders we see what needs to be done and we try to get it done but the methods are foreign or maybe we aren't trying to get something accomplished in the way that others things or would do. Well, it is time to come out of the woodwork and step up to the plate and get involved. We have about 1500 members between all of our organizations, which means that we have 1500 members with brains, ideas and the wherewith all to get things done to improve the Post and keep the Post operating well into the future. Are you ready? Are you willing to let your ideas be known? Are you ready to get involved? We sure do need you and your experience, your knowledge and your can do attitude to help lead us into the future. Even if it is just for one event or two or three hours a week. Anything you are willing to do to help is greatly appreciated. And I'll guarantee you'll feel good doing it.

All you have to do is let the officers know or attend a meeting and let your intentions be known and how you think you can help the Post now and in the future.



CUSTOM CNC PLASMA CUTTING AND DESIGN

**ANDREA KEENAN**  
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## Thank You to Our Sponsors!

We are adding something new to *The Centennial* Newsletter. If you know of a business or have one you would like to advertise in our newsletter, get with our Post Adjutant, Marvin Weaver, Jr. He will work with you on pricing and requirements to get your name and business card out there. Advertising in this Newsletter does not mean we recommend the business; we are merely offering sponsors/supporters a venue for advertising.



## **Motorcycle Minute**

Andy Gilbert, President

Boy has it been an incredibly busy month. Toys for Tots was an incredible event this year. It makes you thankful that we were able to affect so many young children's lives in a positive way. On a positive note, I was stopped by a young mother who just wanted to thank me. I mentioned that I did not recognize her. She said I know but I recognize your American Legion Riders vest and you were one of those guys who allowed my children to have a Christmas. She said, you see that I had to decide whether I would have to feed the children or get Christmas toys. It was an obvious decision. When you group went out and donated these gifts, it made all of the difference in the world. I told her that I would pass the appreciation on to my riders. Thank you riders and know that we are being recognized as a benevolent group of bikers.

Octoberfest was an incredible success. There was very little leftovers. By the time I could show up, everything had been handed out to those that needed a meal later. Unfortunately for myself, I was delayed and could not make it in time. This was my loss but I know it was as great as last time. Thank you Warden for making the Rouladen and everyone who supported this fine dinner.

The Veterans Stand Down was an incredible grass roots plan to reduce homelessness in a meaningful way. As funding for this project was truly a community effort, people and businesses, churches and nonprofits and bikers truly came together to cut homelessness in a meaningful way.

Inviting homeless Veterans off the street at a Stand Down is designed to get them assistance in housing, reconnect with the VA, assist in finding jobs, get hotel rooms for temporary housing, mentorship and make people know that they are a valuable part of our community if they want to be.

This is a huge effort which involves all of us on an individual basis to change people's lives. I have seen first-hand how people can come from homelessness to a successful life. I even had one person request how he can buy his own home within the next year.

This is not an easy program, but when it works, it sure is rewarding. Thank you for your care and assistance.

Don't forget that Thanksgiving dinners will be needed soon. Turkeys can be brought in to the Post in the month of November. We give so others can survive.



## **From Squadron 209**

Commander Ken Taylor

SAL Squadron 209 will be having a Silent Auction along with the Turkey Shoot on Steak Night, November 18, 2016. The proceeds from this auction will go to the Child Welfare Fund. This year's goal is \$1500 and thanks to the 209 Family, we are doing very well. The fund is currently at \$908.43 and we must reach our \$1500 goal by April of 2017. It would be very much appreciated if you could donate items for the silent auction. Please contact me at 719-761-4047 or any SAL officer and we can arrange a time to receive those items.

Membership is also doing well. We are currently at 62 members which is 61.4% of our 101 member goal. Over the past year, our Squadron contributed 2437 hours and \$5817 to Americanism programs, 195 hours and \$4035 to Children and Youth, 594 hours and \$3040 to Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, and 710 hours and \$3804 to Internal Affairs. If you haven't renewed, please help us keep these programs going strong by renewing your membership in Squadron 209. The cost is still just \$20 for those 18 and over, or \$10 for those under 18. Remember, any direct male descendant can be a member if their Father, Mother, Grandfather, or Grandmother served and are, or would have been, eligible for the American Legion. We have many dual members too, so sign up and help Squadron 209 continue its many successful programs.

## **Bringing a Little South to the West**

By Past Post Commander Jay Bowen

By standards of the day, I didn't come from a large family. I grew up with 3 siblings, both sets of grandparents for which I will be eternally grateful, an Aunt and Uncle (my father's sister), and one first cousin. Everyone lived within a 60 mile radius, so visiting was not an issue and we visited the grandparents often. But that's a story for another day.

One of the many advantages of being part of a small family and living so close was getting together during the holidays. One of the advantages of family being 60 miles away was we didn't have to worry much about them just dropping by unannounced. As you know, back then we didn't have cell phones, or even CB radios until much later. So if you decided to take a drive and make an unscheduled visit, you would typically call first to make certain you didn't show up to an empty house. But you didn't do that often because just calling 60 miles away resulted in a long distance call, and they weren't cheap.

So you planned visits. And Thanksgiving was one of those get togethers that you knew would happen. Most of the time grandparents and Aunts would come to our house. While it was no mansion by any stretch of the imagination, it was the largest place to fit all of the family somewhat comfortably. Mom also had a kitchen large enough to fix the meal more efficiently. I still remember when she bought an electric stove. The cook-top had 4 burners that slid out to make access to the back burners more accessible. The stove had a large oven, which was needed to bake both the Turkey and the Ham.

Football was part of the tradition. Dad was always a HUGE Dallas Cowboy fan so watching them on Thanksgiving was something you either participated in or you found something else to occupy your time. Early in the morning and prior to the game, Mom turned the TV to the Thanksgiving Day Parade. I remember her making the comment every year how much more enjoyable it would be if we could watch it in color. She finally got her wish the year I joined the Army. Until that time, it was viewed in black and white, along with every other show.

Speaking of TV, even back then we had remote control. But that would stop every night at 9:00pm when we had to go to bed. After that, Dad had to get up and change the channel himself. I'll never forget that old Muntz TV. It took about 3 minutes for the screen to appear after we turned it on; that was to allow the vacuum tubes time to warm up. I remember having to periodically run down to the local McLemore's Grocery to use their tube tester when things would start going haywire. Dad would open the back of the TV, take two or three tubes out and give them to us boys to go check. The tube tester would identify which of the tubes was bad and we'd buy another one to take back and get the TV working again. The only other issue we'd have from time to time was when the wind would blow the outside antenna off signal. We'd set up a relay. One of us would turn the antenna pole while another one acted as the relay for Dad who would let us know as the signal improved. I was so glad to finally get a good set of rabbit ears. The only thing we had to do with them is play with the aluminum foil from time to time. And it didn't take three people to do it. Oh how we loved the technology.

Thanksgiving dinner was fun and absolutely delicious! I could count on having everything from Turkey to Ham, stuffing, yeast buns, and 3 or 4 homemade pies. I knew we weren't going to have liver and onions or stew. Having all the family together and feasting on the traditional meal made Thanksgiving my favorite holiday. Well, other than Halloween...or Christmas. Or Memorial Day (marked getting out of school). Anyway, I always LOVED Thanksgiving!



## Post Officers 2016-2017

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Mike Barger	719-290-3218
Sr. Vice Cdr	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Jr. Vice Cdr	Bob Caddell	719-393-5180
Adjutant	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	719-244-3535
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Chaplain	Paul R. Darrow	719-237-4461
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasinski	719-556-8326
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Post Exec. Cmtee	Gregory Smith	520-784-3555
Service Officer	Lyle Hagelberg	719-231-2364
Judge Advocate	Larry Johnson	719-230-0232
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610
Honor Guard Capt.	Jeremy Boltjes	218-831-0475



## ALR Officers 2016-2017

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Andy Gilbert	719-231-6696
Vice President	Mike Barger	719-290-3218
Secretary	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Treasurer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Road Captain	Grady Mitchell	719-201-3353



## Auxiliary Officers 2016-2017

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Vice President	Pat Weaver	719-638-4763
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Kellie Hayes	719-494-7167
Chaplain	Jackie Burd	719-590-6615
Sergeant-At-Arms	Donna Testorff	719-510-4567
Historian	Donna Rae Smith	815-973-0073



## Sons of The American Legion 2016-2017

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Ken Taylor	719-761-4047
Sr. Vice Commander	Marv Weaver	719-244-3535
Jr. Vice Commander	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
Adjutant	Steve Wolford	920-264-4238
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Steve P. Cox	970-580-8191
Chaplain	Christopher Keith	719-382-7845
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177

## November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Young Guns 1830-2030 	3 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	4 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	5 Colorado Springs Veterans' Day Parade! 
6 Daylight Saving Time Ends	7	8 Election Day	9 Young Guns 1830-2030 	10	11 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! Happy Veterans' Day! 	12 \$8.50 Breakfast Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am 
13	14	15	16	17 Great American Smokeout	18 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	19
20	21 ALR Executive Board 6:00pm 	22 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm 	23	24 Happy Thanksgiving! 	25	26
27	28	29	30	Notes:		

December 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Potluck! Post Christmas Party! 4:00pm   
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice (Northern)	22	23	24
25 Merry Christmas! 	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	6 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	7
8 Suits for Troops! Fundraiser - 2-4:00pm	9	10	11	12	13 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	14 \$8.50 Breakfast Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am  
15	16 Martin Luther King ALR Executive Board 6:00pm 	17	18	19	20 Department of Colorado Mid-Year Conference, Denver   	21 Department of Colorado Mid-Year Conference, Denver   
22 Department of Colorado Mid-Year Conference, Denver   	23	24 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm  	25	26	27 \$10.50 Meal Chef Surprise! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	28
29	30	31	Notes:  Chef's Surprise Menu Varies Month to Month			