

The Centennial



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JANUARY 2012

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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Jay Bowen

Have you ever walked up to someone on the street or in a store and asked something like, "Excuse me, but do you have the time?" Probably 99 people out of 100 would look at their watch (or their smart phone) and give you the time of day. Occasionally however, you'll get someone that thinks on a different plane and they may respond with "Certainly! How can I help?"

Time has to be the most precious commodity we have in our life. It is interesting that the richest man on earth cannot buy one second more with the vast billions of dollars in his possession than that which is allotted to the beggar on the street. We all have the same hours given to us each day, and at some point we will all lose that precious gift.

I can't tell you how many times I've heard (and even stated), "I just don't have enough time in a day to get everything I want done." In reality, that's not true. We all have time; we just don't use it properly. You may not believe it, but look around you. How often have you watched as people you know seem to be a whirlwind of activity? They run from one place to another and are working on multiple things simultaneously. Why do they do it? It's because it is very important to them and they have decided these things MUST be done. They are willing to let something else go undone in order to move another task to the front of the line. If it is something we REALLY want to do, or we REALLY must do, somehow we always find the time to 'git 'er done!

My Dad used to be fond of saying, "A man never has time to do a job right, but he always finds time to do it over.



How true that is, and I think it took me years to understand what he meant. And I'll admit that sometimes I forget his words of wisdom and rush through a job because I am out of time, just to find myself having to do it again.

In this New Year, I challenge each one of you to figure out what is a priority in your life to get done. We all do what we HAVE to do, so that's not a factor. But how will you allocate the minutes each day to get done the things you WANT to do for yourself and others? No one can answer that question but you. So however you decide, don't try to justify not getting something done by using the "There's just not enough time in a day" excuse. And to help, we are all given an extra day this year just to assist our efforts. We should use 29 February as the day to get those things done we just don't seem to have time on any other day in the three years previous.

Remember, it's not how much time you have, it is what you do with the time you have.

Happy 2012! This year, I am determined to make time to do all the things I have to do, and most of the things I want to do. How about you? Do you have the time?

For God and Country,

Jay Bowen





Auxiliary President Jackie Bowen

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Another year has come and gone. We continue to work hard supporting our Veterans and their families. I would like to say "Thank You" to all our members for your support. Everyone's support is precious, whether it's monetary, physical, or both.

If you have special talents and would like to participate in a craft bazaar please let us know. We will be holding several fundraisers and we are looking at one being a craft bazaar. I would also like to revisit the possibility of doing a cookbook. I apologize for not following through with this before.

Unfortunately I wasn't able to attend the Christmas party but I was told by several attendees it was very nice. I hope everyone enjoyed it and will pass the word around and maybe our 2012 Christmas party will be even bigger.

Please continue to thank a soldier/Veteran when you see them. This means more to them than you know and the smile on their face is priceless.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly,
Jackie Bowen



Thoughts From Marion

Dear Members,

Were you one of the 90 + members that attended the Christmas party? The evening was perfect to be out. The food was delicious. Art prepared a variety of meat to go with the covered dishes prepared by the members.

While we were eating we had Christmas music playing in the background. Mike and Jean Chladek were sitting at my table. At the end of the meal someone came over and told Mike what song to play on the accordion before Santa made his appearance. Santa made his big entrance to the tune of Jingle Bells. Santa gave presents to around nine children who were present.



Thoughts From Marion (continued)

Most of the children had no problem sitting on Santa's lap. One little boy, who was sitting on his Mother's lap observing it all, watched thoughtfully as the children one by one told Santa their wishes.

When the last child had talked to Santa his Mother brought her boy up to see Santa. As she tried to put him down on Santa's lap he cried out in disapproval. She then sat down again and Santa brought his gift to the table where they were sitting. It was an interesting scene to observe. At least it had a happy ending.

After Santa's departure we had the drawing for the door prizes. I was fortunate to win one. I received two nice gift cards. That is something everyone can use. I do appreciate them.

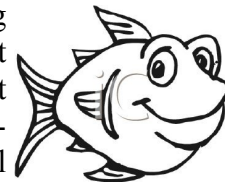
The party closed with singing Christmas Carols. It was a very nice party and I was glad I attended.

There will be many new challenges for all of us in 2012. I pray our leaders will keep the people in mind instead of their own political interest.

May you all have a Happy New Year with good health and happiness.

Hot—Hot– Hot- Fish Fry Friday Hot– Hot-Hot

Draw a little fish on your 2012 calendar every 2nd Friday starting with January (the 13th). The Post Fry. The Cost will be \$10 per per- son and the selec- tion of fish will change from month to month.



We would like everyone to please make a reservation by calling Jackie Bowen at 719-574-1223 or Lynn Thomas at 719-439-6268 and let them know how many will be coming with you for dinner.

Potluck Dinners

Beginning 24 February at 6:30pm, the Post will be hosting a Pot Luck Dinner.



What a great way to show off your culinary skills and share your favorite family recipe.



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	719-244-2442
Sergeant-at-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
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: www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org



Auxiliary Officers 2010-2011

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 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



Son's 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

31 Dec	New Years Eve
1 Jan 2012	New Year's Day — Please be Safe
5 Jan	Post Executive Committee Mtg 6:30 pm.
6 Jan	Hamdogger Wingding Dinner 6:30 pm
13 Jan	Fish Fry 6:30 pm Membership Booth Rustics Hills Mall North (Gun Show)
14 Jan	Breakfast 9:00 am Meeting 10:00 pm Membership Booth Rustics Hills Mall North Regional Oratorical Contest
15 Jan	Membership Booth Rustics Hills Mall North
20 Jan	Steak Night 6:30 pm
27-29 Jan	Dept Mid-Year Conference—Longmont
2 Feb	Post Executive Committee Mtg 6:30 pm
3 Feb	Hamdogger Wingding Diner 6:30 pm
5 Feb	Chili Cook-Off 1:00 pm Super Bowl Party 3:00 pm
10 Feb	Fish Fry 6:30 pm
11 Feb	Breakfast 9:00 am Meetings 10:00 am
14 Feb	Valentines Day Dinner 6:30 pm
17 Feb	Steak Night 6:30 pm
24 Feb	Pot Luck Dinner 6:30 pm
1 Mar	Post Executive Committee Mtg 6:30 pm
2 Mar	Hamdogger Wingding Night 6:30 pm
9 Mar	Fish Fry 6:30 pm
10 Mar	No Meeting or Breakfast New Member Initiation 4:00 pm Legion Birthday Dinner
16 Mar	Steak Night 6:30 pm
23 Mar	Pot Luck Dinner 6:30 pm



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

We held our first meeting in December and only three members of the Squadron attended.

Thanks go out the Detachment Adjutant Mark Kilstrom for coming out and sharing information.

Our regular meeting will be held on the 2nd Saturday of every month unless posted in the newsletter.

I encourage all of the SAL members who have joined anytime during the past couple of years to attend this meeting and learn what we are all about.

If you have questions or would like more information please email me at maellaro@comcast.net.

If you have not paid your 2012 dues, please take a moment and make out a check or a money order to Squadron 209 for \$20.00, and mail it to Squadron 209 at P.O. Box 25334, Colorado Springs, CO 80936. You can also pay via PayPal from our web site at www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org

Thank you, Frank



With the rising cost of food, it is becoming more and more important that we know how many members and guests are going to be at a dinner or event. This is the only way we can ensure we have enough food on hand to feed all who are attending. We have been pretty lucky so far that we've been able to feed everyone that attends, and we REALLY want you there, but we do not want to waste food and if you don't RSVP, we can promise there will be enough food to serve you. Priority will ALWAYS go to the people who do call in ahead.

To make a reservation for any event and/or dinner, please call Jackie Bowen at 719-574-1223 or Lynn Thomas at 719-439-6268 and let them know how many will be attending.

Please help us help conserve money and plan ahead.

Valentine's Day Dinner

On 14 February  beginning at 6:30 pm, we will serve a Valentine's Day Dinner. The menu for the dinner will consist of a steak, baked potato, salad, veggies and a dessert.

Please consider making your reservation early so we can ensure there is plenty of food for everyone to enjoy. Look at the column called RSVP's and contact one of the ladies with your attendance.

I hope to see you there.

Why Did You Join The American Legion?

I don't know how many times I have heard that question since I became a member of The American Legion.



I can tell you that I originally joined the Legion in 1977. It was a Post in Seoul, Korea. I would go there and play Black Jack, and the price of drinks was very cheap. But during a meeting that I attended, I found out the Post sponsored an Orphanage of American-Asian children that had been left homeless. The members who lived in Korea full-time were in contact with the businesses in Korea and in the US that provided clothing, funds, books, etc. Many of these donations were all the kids had and their survivability literally depended on this support. Every time we would visit the Orphanage wearing our Legion Caps, we were swamped by the children showing their appreciation and love.

There are a number of Posts that do not have a bar and are very active within the community and in some cases are the hub for everything that goes on in their community.

Another reason to become a member of the largest Veterans organization in the world is for therapeutic reasons. We all know that only Veterans truly understand Vets. Even if you don't talk about your time in service, it is relaxing and good to have someone to share with that you know will understand. One of the things I can tell you is that it is cheaper to pay \$35.00 a year to The American Legion than it is to pay \$100.00 or more for a Psychiatrist every week.



**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 and dinners. I appreciate the encouraging words. I would ask that you pass those comments on to your friends and encourage them to come out and see for themselves what we are doing.

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). You can also reserve with Lynn Thomas. Her contact number is (719) 439-6268.

Umbrella Sales

The word has gotten out about our latest fund raiser; the Umbrella (pictured). We are selling them 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.

Gun Show Support Needed

The Post would like to extend a hearty thanks to the Prospect Sertoma Club who has offered us a booth at their Gun Shows. We will work to grow our membership and pass out information about the Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and the SAL.

The Shows usually start the 2nd weekend of each month, which is also the day of our General Membership meeting. I am asking for volunteers to sit in during the morning of the first day of the gun show and pass out information until the Adjutant arrives.

**Toy Drive
From the Public Relations Committee**

We would like to give a BIG thanks to everyone who donated a toy to this years' toy drive! We had a very good response and we made a lot of children happy.

On one of the trips to drop off toys I witnessed several families choosing toys for their children, and they all had big smiles and were very gracious for what they were getting. Once again Post 209 did a great job helping our local community!

Thanks to all who participated!

From the Public Relations Committee



**From the Chaplain
Chet Dean**

If you have an emergency or are admitted to the hospital, a care facility, or just need a Chaplain for any reason, you can call them directly. Sometimes if you leave a message at the Post there may be a delay with the information getting to the Chaplain in an expeditious manner.

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 Dean 719-244-2442

Assistant Chaplain Stebick 719-351-2574

Coupon Clippers!

Don't forget to clip and bring your coupon to Steak Night to get \$2 off the second steak! Remember, you must have a reservation to validate the coupon!

See you on the 20th!

**STEAK NIGHT
COUPON**

Buy 1 dinner at Regular Price of \$12.00, get the 2nd One at \$ 2.00 off.

Good only during the month of January 2012 and with a reservation made in advance



From the Adjutant Larry Johnson

When I transferred to Post 209 in 1985, we had 54 members. About 25 or 30 members were house bound and could not get out to make meetings. I decided that I would call all of the members to see if we could get more membership participation. It took a month and a half to completely call the membership, because when I called they wanted to know who was still in the Post, what we were doing, and where we were going.

We have grown so much and many good things have resulted from the growth, but one of the things that happened was we have gotten away from getting our members who wanted to be part of the organization involved. A number of our members asked how they could help and some wanted to know if the committee's always had to meet at the Post. The answer was "no" when I first joined the Post and started working with committees, and the answer is still no today.

Committees do not have to meet at the Post and if the members of the committee could meet at various locations or homes, it may provide a way for more members to become active and help the Post.

One of our homebound members suggested a way to get others involved was to ask for help calling other members about upcoming activities and meetings. This is something anyone can do from anyplace.

I received a membership listing from Department containing telephone number of members who are members of the American Legion but joined through National and need to be transferred to a local Post. I made an extra effort to see how many of these members would be willing to transfer their membership from Denver Post 211 to a local Post. In two weeks calling from 5:00 to 6:30 pm I was able to transfer about 50 of these members to our Post, 10 to Post 38 and some to Post 5. Our membership committee has had similar success calling people to transfer.



VA Women Advisory Committee

Six new members have been appointed to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, an expert panel that advises VA on issues and programs affecting women Veterans. The Advisory Committee significantly

guides VA's efforts to identify and address the ever changing needs of women Veterans, said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. —VA welcomes the newest members. Established in 1983, the advisory committee makes recommendations to the Secretary for administrative and legislative changes. The new committee members, who are appointed to two-year terms, are: Sherri Brown, Alexandria, VA; Latoya Lucas, Rocky Mount, NC; Sara J. McVicker, Washington, DC; Delphine Metcalf-Foster, Vallejo, CA; Robin Patrick, Virginia Beach, VA; and Felipe Torres, Helotes, TX. —Women serving in the military are essential components of our Nation's success, Shinseki added. —In honor of their service, VA is committed to providing women Veterans with quality care and preparing for their evolving needs.

Women Veterans are one of the fastest growing segments of the Veteran population. There are 23.4M Veterans; approximately 1.8M are women. They comprise nearly 8% of the total Veteran population and nearly 5% of all Veterans who use VA health care services. VA estimates that by 2020 women will comprise 10% of the Veteran population. VA has women Veterans program managers at VA medical centers and Veterans coordinators at VA regional offices to assist with health and benefits issues.

[Source: VA Press Release 2 Dec 2011 ++]



From Scouts and Service Officer, John Brown

Scouts:

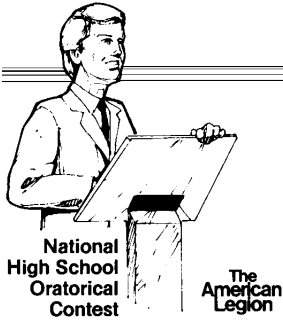
Both packs are doing fine. Upcoming events of interest include "Blue and Gold" dinners in February to celebrate the anniversary of scouting. In March its Pine wood derby time. Pack 24 will hold their derby at West Middle School and Pack 386 will be at the Post in April. You are encouraged to attend and help judge or just watch the young men compete.

Service: Update your disability rating

The higher your rating, the more compensation you receive. It is especially important for wounded warriors to get at least 30% so they can get lifetime disability retirement pay and other benefits. If you already have a disability rating, visit the El Paso County VA rep and see if he can possibly up the disability rating. Jim Tackett has stated if it has been over 10 years since you received your rating let his office look at it; you may be ready for an upgrade.

The American Legion HS Oratorical Contest

Speak Out for the Constitution



The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation of 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 American Legion and The National Forensic League have joined forces for the betterment of the contestants and their way to a college education.

If you have never listened to these students during one of the competitions, I urge to come to Post 209 on 14 January, when the Post will once again host the Colorado Regional Oratorical Contest. I guarantee that you will be impressed with the students and their presentation.



Reminiscences of the Past

As we mentioned last month, we have a new column. You can call it "War Stories," or "Reminiscences of Days in the Military." We don't care. But if you have a story you want to share, send it to us. We want to highlight at least one per month if space allows. Don't get discouraged or disappointed if your article doesn't get printed the same month you send it. If it is a timely piece (meaning the published month holds a special meaning as in case of this first one), let us know when you send it. We'll try to accommodate.

Reminiscences from the Commander; Jay Bowen

In the early 1980's, I was stationed at Ft Bliss, TX in El Paso. I was a junior Warrant Officer in a Missile Battery. The officer staff included two 2nd Lieutenants and a 1st Lieutenant. As some of you know, I typically refer to 2nd Lieutenants as "Proof that God has a sense of humor." One member of our unit was responsible for that mantra.

2nd Lieutenant Bradley Anderson epitomized his rank. He was a recent college graduate (not a slam, I too have a degree) and when he joined our unit had a grand total of about a month of active duty time. To his credit, he quickly realized his survival depended on listening to his NCOs and Warrant Officers. That set him apart from many of his peers. Brad was a single GI and fancied himself as quite the ladies man. As a result, he had all the things he felt women looked for in a man. He had a small sports car, the latest technology in his stereo system and rented a bachelor pad in a gated apartment complex that catered to young bachelors and bachelorettes.

As will happen, Brad's luck (and judgment) ran hot and cold. When his sports car burned up in his parking garage (an electrical short under the hood) and his insurance check still left him in the red, he came to me and asked for assistance in his next car purchase to prevent getting upside down once again.

He said he had found a great little sports car at an import car dealership and REALLY wanted to buy the car but now felt "snake-bitten" on being able to negotiate his next car purchase. I immediately saw this as a teaching moment. I told him we would go to three car dealerships and pretend to be interested in a car on each lot. Obviously, we would choose a car Brad had no real interest in buying, but it would help him learn to deal with the high pressure sales pitch from the dealers and teach him to say "NO."

We sat out the next Saturday morning on our quest. The first stop was a local Volvo dealership. The car of choice was a used 4-door, burnt orange, Volvo sedan. As we parked and walked around the lot, a salesman approached and asked if we wanted to go on a test drive of the sedan. I told him I was not interested, but would wait for him and Brad to return. After the 15 minute test drive, I saw the burnt orange tank pull back up into the lot. As the sales guy jumped out of the car he stated, "I'll go inside and start putting together the paperwork." I asked Brad what just happened. He looked at me with a wide-eyed stare and said, "I gotta have this car! It runs great!" I asked him about the little sports car down the road and he said, "I don't care. This is the car I want!"

I had the pleasure of working with several good and not so good officers during my career, but I still insist that 2nd Lieutenants are living proof that God has a sense of humor.