



“For God and Country” GEORGE C. EVANS POST 103 “United We Stand”

“The Leader Post” August 2013

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 Website-www.legionpost103.org



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 8-15-2013 - Bingo – Slammers Bingo Hall
- 8-17-2013 - Western Welcome Week
- 8-22-2013 - Bingo – Slammers Bingo Hall
- 8-29-2013 - Bingo – Slammers Bingo Hall
- 9-3 -2013 – Officers Meeting
- 9-4–2013 – General Membership Meeting
- 9-5-2013 - Bingo – Slammers Bingo Hall
- 9–11–2013 – Patriot Day
- 9-12-2013 - Bingo – Slammers Bingo Hall
- 9-19-2013 - Bingo – Slammers Bingo Hall
- 9-20-2013- POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 9-21- 2013 –Post Breakfast- Englewood Elks
- 9-26-2013 - Bingo – Slammers Bingo Hall
- 9-28-2013- Sheridan Parade

Englewood Elks- 3690 S. Jason St., Englewood, CO
 Buck Rec. Center—2004 W. Powers Ave., Littleton, CO
 Slammers Bingo Hall-1884 S. Wadsworth-Lakewood, CO

COMMANDER’S COMMENTS:

The summer months are usually a little slow and attendance is down at Post meetings with vacations, yard work and all the other distractions but not at the Leader Post. What a great turnout!! Thank you to all the attendees.

What better way to kick off any meeting than with a brief visit and speech from one of the young men that our Post sponsored to participate in this year’s Boys State Program. Oh by the way, he was voted in as Boys State Governor and his essay was selected to be Colorado’s entry to National for the Samsung Scholarship Award Competition. Chandler Zastro is one impressive individual with outstanding character, focus and leadership. He thanked the Post for sponsoring him and spoke of his learning experience at Boys State. Our appreciation goes out to Boys State Chairman, Rich Callan, for his hard work and dedication to this Program at the Post and the Department level.

Our big activity in August is the Western Welcome Week Parade on August 17th. The Post always has a good showing for this parade. The spectators show their appreciation in the form of waving; thanking you for your service and often fellow veterans and/or active duty service members will salute. I urge members to come out show off your patriotism and march in the parade carrying a flag, ride in one of the vehicles, or just be a spectator. Please see the details later in this newsletter.

September is right around the corner and activities will focus on POW/MIA activities with September 20th being the official POW/MIA Recognition Day. Please let me know if you know of any Littleton POWs, so we can ask them to speak and be recognized at our September meeting. We are exploring with the City of Littleton the reinstatement of the Patriot Day Ceremony at the City Center on September 11th. We will also participate in the Sheridan Parade on Saturday morning, September 28th where the theme is “Sheridan Celebrates Military Heroes”. We have several members from Sheridan and hope to have an entry very similar to our Western Welcome Week Parade. Please contact Roger Masse if you are interested in participating. Lastly but not least, we will restart our Post Breakfast on Saturday, September 21st, so mark that date on your calendar.

The Department has initiated the new Colorado Veterans Kids Funds to help ensure minor kids of veterans receive funds to meet their subsistence needs. Pat is ready to begin using this source of assistance but we need your help in identifying or referring veteran families with minor children living in the household with basic needs such as food, utilities, clothing and medical.

Department Commander, Carol Kennedy has challenged the posts in Colorado to make an extra effort this year to “Ignite Patriotism” in our communities, in our schools, and through our programs. We do a lot in the Americanism arena but there is more we could and should be doing. Any ideas on new or expanded programs or activities are welcome.

Ed Pietsch

Commander

General Meeting Minutes

Commander Ed Pietsch gaveled the meeting to order at 1900 hours.

Opening ceremonies and Recitals conducted.

1st Vice Commander Lynn Peterson performed the ceremony to recognize all POW's and MIA's.

Guests at tonight's meeting were

Mother of Post 103 Boys State representative, Carol Zastrow.

Chandler Zastrow Post 103 Boys State representative, Chandler gave a description of his time at boys state and of all the things he had done there.

Chandler was given an Award from the post for his accomplishments while at Boy's State.

Given to him by Commander Ed Pietsch and 2nd Vice Commander / Boys State Program Manger, Rich Callan

Acknowledgement of Past Commanders: Dean Casey, Pat Callahan, John Palmquist and Mike Romero. Thanks to one and all for fulfilling this vital role!

Other Guest included 2 new members of the post
Wayne Arguello, USAF
Howard Olson, Army

Adjutant Harry Ciruli declared that there was a quorum present.

The minutes of the July Meeting has been sent either electronically or hard copy by mail. There was no changes to the minutes, so they were accepted as written.

3 new members were initiated they were:

Paul Woolsey, Navy
Wayne Arguello, USAF
Howard Olson, Army

Officers Reports

Harry Ciruli – Adjutant: NoReport

Lynn Peterson - 1st. Vice Commander:

Membership - Renew, Stay Active & Keep Up the Tradition as “The Leader Post”

Special Thanks to All for your Annual Renewal Memberships. For those who have Not Yet Renewed, please Visit www.legionpost103.org for On-Line New Membership Start-up or Annual Renewal. It's as Easy as 1-2-3! We Greatly Appreciate your continuing Post 103 Program Activity Involvement, Interest, Support, Attendance & Participation in and service to our Veterans, Community & Youth. Keep it coming and Keep it Strong!!!

Community Service – Local Events & Up-Coming Activity(s)

Remember to: Invite & Bring a Guest - “Veteran” Relative, Friend, Neighbor or Acquaintance - to our Regular Monthly Membership Meetings!!! Also, Wives & Family, Children You're Welcome Too! Come See What we're All About & What we're Doing. Try It, You might very well like the feeling and pride of providing Community Service to our Local Area Families & Veterans. Find out and if interested, become involved with our Women's Auxiliary & Sons of the American Legion Squadron.

Supporting & Mentoring our Youth: Become Involved

Received Inquiry from Joey Drennan, Littleton High School Junior Baseball Player & International Baccalaureate Program. Student, who is SAL Eligible and seriously interested in Volunteering Opportunities with Post 103. In addition to Baseball, Joey is interested in attending & participating in 2014 Boys State. His Other interests & skills include, Mathematics, Foreign Language – Spanish & Journalism, with future career aspirations of attending West Point Military Academy.

Let's offer Joey and other interested local youth, Opportunities & Support!!! Please Send or Let Us Know your Thoughts on Volunteer Ideas???

A. American Legion Baseball Update - Littleton H.S. Lions

In 2013, Post 103 sponsored, with financial assistance to three Colorado American Legion Baseball teams: Littleton High School Baseball Legion B (18 Yr. Old & Under), C (16 Yr. Old & Under) & D (Incoming Freshmen Only).

2013 Summer League Games & Tournament Results & Summary. Also, Visit www.calb.org for additional Colorado American Legion Baseball Program Information.

1. Legion B Baseball Team
 - a. Metro Denver Division League – 1st Place (14 Wins– 4 Losses)
 - b. Metro Denver/Northern Colorado - 8-Team District Tournament Host
 - 1) 0 Wins – 2 Losses
2. Legion C Baseball Team
 - a. Metro Denver Division League – 5th Place (8 Wins – 10 Losses)
3. Legion D Baseball Team
 - a. Metro Denver/Northern Division League – 7th Place (10 Wins – 12 Losses)

Several other important Post 103 baseball team Program accomplishments included: installation of a Permanent “George C. Evans Post 103” sign at Littleton High School Baseball Field and “Post 103” Littleton Lions Baseball Team Uniforms.

B. 2013 Colorado American Legion Baseball Results

Legion A State Champions – Rocky Mtn Lobos, Ft. Collins, CO
Legion B Front Range State Champions – Post 5 Liberty Lancers, Colo. Springs., CO
Legion B Eastern/Mountain State Champions – Post 44 Steamboat Springs. Steamboat Springs., CO

Legion C State Champions – Post 10 Boulder Panthers, Boulder, CO
Legion D State Champions – Post 19 Ft. Morgan Mustangs, Ft. Morgan, CO



Rich Callan - 2nd. Vice Commander: Western Welcome Week Parade

On Saturday, August 17, 2013 the Post will participate in the Annual Western Welcome Week Parade. It is requested that volunteers report to the Pat Hannon VFW Post, 4666, 5748 S. Gallup St, Littleton by 0830. (This building is just 1 block south of Littleton). The official start time for the one mile long parade is 10:00 o'clock, heading west on Littleton Blvd.

The parade organizers strongly encourage participants to park in the north parking area at the Arapahoe Community College (ACC). This is where the parade terminates and it will be much easier to leave from that area rather than trying to get back to the VFW area when we finish. We are always the third group in the parade so we finish early. There will be shuttle buses to take participants from the parking area to the parade staging area on Gallup.

Boys Scouts from Troop 114 will lead off, and carry the Post 103 banner. They will be followed by members carrying the US Flag, State, Post, SAL, Auxiliary, POW/MIA and the service flags. The flags may be reduced depending on the number of volunteers available. There may also be two color guard members with a pistol belt to escort the members carrying the flags. There will also be two personal vehicles driven by Post members and a limousine provided by Dignity Memorial's Olinger Chapel Hill Cemetery. These vehicles will carry those Post members who cannot march in the parade.

The prescribed uniform of the day will be: Gray Slacks, black shoes and socks, belt, white gloves, white Legion shirt, **Blue Legion Cap**, no post baseball caps and **no** shoulder braid.

The official photographer will be Historian Gene Foyle. (Thanks Gene!)

Should any Post members have any questions, wish to volunteer or wish to ride in a vehicle, please call Rich Callan at 303-779-5097 or email at richardcallan@hotmail.com.

Please accept my sincere appreciation for those Post members who choose to participate.

Oratorical – No report.

Financial Report - George Williams: Major financial events were our Post 103 members paying their 2014 Dues through the Adjutant's office. Major Income and Expenses were Dues related with Expenses paid to Department of Colorado. Keep up the good work Post 103 members. Remember to pay your dues.

Peter Schroder- Chaplain: If you know of anyone that is ill, in the hospital, or has passed away please notify me. 303-795-1243 or alch103@aol.com.

Lynn Peterson - Legion Baseball: See 1st. vice Commanders report.

Sergeant-At-Arms- Roger Masse: No Report.

JAG -Duane Leiker: No Report.

AVHG- Harry Giglio: Reported there was 13 funerals performed by the Honor Guard.

All Veterans Honor Guard – Special Service

Approximately every five months the Post AVHG unit participates in a Saturday Service at Fort Logan National Cemetery. This service is to provide military honors for those veterans who did not receive them at the time of their burial. It is a very moving and beautiful service that happens on the second Saturday of every month at 11:00 a.m. at the Area A Shelter. The pictures below are from the August 10th service performed by our team. John Palmquist grandson who is stationed at Ft. Carson rang the bell as the name of service man or woman being honored was called.



Bingo Manager - Cal Wilson: - July was a good month with \$1600 in profits. The Bingo funds paid for about \$5.400 in Post expenses.

Please consider joining us as a regular Bingo volunteer or as a player on any Thursday at the Slammers Bingo Hall which is located at 1884 South Wadsworth Boulevard (the northeast corner of Wadsworth and Jewell). Our session starts at 11:30 am and usually ends about 2:00 pm. Most workers arrive between 10 and 10:30 am.

If you have questions please call Cal Wilson 303-470-7206, Ed Pietsch at 720-287-2108 or Pat Callahan 303-770-2857.

Service Officer - Pat Callahan: July into August was a busy time for the Service Officer. Thanks to a special line item in our bingo budget of \$4,000.00 we were able to assist nine (9) veteran families through the interim period between State Veteran Grants. At this writing the balance of funds on hand from the Veterans and Family bingo line item is \$150 and three \$25 King Soopers gift cards. Just when we will see moneys from the approved \$20,000 Veterans Grant Fund is still open to a guess – most likely sometime in September. The need is out there! Know of anyone in need; please let me know (303-770-28570).

Department of Colorado, American Legion, has set up a special “Kids Fund” for the express purpose of assisting families with children. This fund is administered by the Department of Colorado; however, if there is a known veteran family with children in need, let me know and I can get the ball rolling. The application for such assistance is onerous to say the least and will take time.

Historian - Gene Foyle: No Report.

Boys State: No Report.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business

For the Good of the Order. A 50/50 drawing was held, and the lucky recipient was Sal Commander Nick Arceo. He donated his winnings to the Meals on Wheels. A good choice and thanks Nick!

The meeting was adjourned at 2008 hours followed by refreshments.

Special Notes

Thank You Lunch – Chapel Hill

Post members, their spouses and guests are invited to a complimentary lunch at noon on Wednesday, August 28th at Olinger Chapel Hill Mortuary & Cemetery located at 6601 South Colorado Boulevard. Mike Skolaut, the General Manager at Olinger Chapel Hill Mortuary & Cemetery explained that the lunch is part of Dignity Memorial's "We Honor Veterans Program". It is their way of saying Thank You for your military service and for your continued service through the American Legion. There will be a limit on the number of attendee who can participate so please contact Ed Pietsch (720-287-2108 or e_pietsch@msn.com) as soon as possible to reserve your seat(s) on a first come basis.

Build the Damn Thing

The August edition of the Department's Internet Observer leads off with an article by Post member and Department Adjutant Pat Smith titled "Build the Damn Thing". This is a must read for everyone if you have not already done so. Pat's letter to the editor of the Denver Post corrects some of the misstatements in the media about why the new VA Medical Center is behind schedule and way over cost and the role of the American Legion and other veteran organizations in this process. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigated delays and cost overruns at four major VA construction projects including the Denver Medical Center.

National Convention

Post members Dean Casey (Department Service Officer and District 5 Commander) and Pat Smith (Department Adjutant) will be attending the National American Legion Convention in Houston at the end of this month. We look forward to hearing about the Convention in the near future.

New Community Projects and Programs

The Post is looking for ideas and opportunities where we can do more in our local community and bring some of our Projects and Programs "Closer to Home". Please call (720-287-2108) or email e_pietsch@msn.com Commander Ed Pietsch or any Officer with any ideas you may have. We are getting ideas large and small including such things as a small Post scholarship, student essay contests, and more involvement with the schools and Boy Scouts, and recognizing accomplishments of local schools/students, businesses, fireman and policeman.

For example, last month we supplemented our state Grant funds used to help needy veterans and their families with \$4,000 from the Post. There is a period between the end of June when the grant year ends until late August or mid-September when new grant funds are available when we were unable to assist veterans. The additional Post money has been able to help meet the needs of some of these veterans during this period.

All ideas are appreciated and will be considered for implementation.

“Old Glory Beyond Domain”

Across the rolling, deep, blue sea,
The “Stars and Stripes” are here with me,
Extended for the “Deeds of Courage”,
Far beyond our own domain,
Lurking for the “Purest Purpose”,
“Loyalty” among the same,
Existing there but not in vain,
“Red, White and Blue” yet not domain,
Planted so richly on many atoll,
She waves as cheering at self-control,
And the sea, the porpoise, cast a story,
It’s beauty all for the “Old Glory”,
The mysterious tide breaks forth moral,
Casting rainbows from the blushing coral,
Then racing upon the sand seeking rest,
She settles back as infants to nest,
And trade winds rise just for the cause,
To give her grace as though to applause,
And how do we know she’s confident,
Of victory for which she’s sent,
Nature seems to mark the fight,
While flying patrol I bear the sight,
Two flying fish rise making a “V”,
Not real to tell but real to see,
And below the largest fleet doth cruise,
Wakes forming ‘Vs”, we cannot loose,
Our “Flag of America”, may it be one,
To school the “Savage Rising Sun”.

The poem above, which is on file in the Library of Congress, was written by our own **Amiel Smith**, Aviation Radio Man and Aerial Gunner 2nd Class while stationed at Eniwetok in the Marshall Islands during WWII when he was 20 years old.



Darlene Romero, President

303-973-2493

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I hope you all had a good summer. Our next meeting will be September 4th, at the Buck Center at 7:00pm. We will have some of our Girls State girls coming in and telling us about their experiences at Girls State. We are also having initiations for those of us that haven't been initiated.

We are still collecting pop can tabs, used printer cartridges, plastic grocery bags, and travel size toiletries. September's food for the Veteran's Redistribution Center is peanut butter, or any canned vegetables you have.

Upcoming Events: Post Breakfast at the Elks Lodge, September 21, at 9:00am. It is still \$5.00 and you can bring a guest.

Thank you,

Darlene Romero
President