



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

“The Leader Post” January 2014

Editor: Harry Ciruli- 720-287-2139 adjutant@legionpost103.org

Website-www.legionpost103.org



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 1-16-2014- Bingo – Slammers Bingo Hall “Must Go”
- 1-17-19-2014 Midyear Conference-Longmont, CO
- 1-23-2014- Bingo – Slammers Bingo Hall
- 1-30-2014- Bingo – Slammers Bingo Hall
- 2-3-2014- Officers meeting-Buck Rec. Center-7:00 PM
- 2-5-2014-General membership meeting- Buck Rec. Center- 7:00 PM
- 2-6-2014- Bingo – Slammers Bingo Hall
- 2-13-2014- Bingo – Slammers Bingo Hall
- 2-20-2014- Bingo – Slammers Bingo Hall
- 2-24-2014- Bingo – Slammers Bingo Hall

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:

We had a great 2013 and we will continue our success into 2014 and the future. Commander Mike Romero built a great foundation for the Post and our membership with his outstanding leadership. Thanks to our membership and individual efforts, we had been able to continue Commander Romero’s success in the last half of 2013. I am so proud of all of you and what we have accomplished to date. But now we must focus on the future and new ways to “Ignite Patriotism” and further serve our fellow veterans and the community.

The Post achieved 100% of our membership goal in December!! This is the first time this has happened in recent Post history. At the end of November we were 16 members short of our 100% goal for the year. We appealed to those who had not yet renewed in the December newsletter and we sent each of them a personal letter. The response was truly outstanding, we had 24 renew through the Adjutant and another 27 renewed online through National. The Department’s December 27th Membership Report showed the Post at 377 members or 102% of our goal and that does not include the members who renewed online via National. This is a major milestone to accomplish and I thank you all for helping the Post achieve this goal. Oh, I

failed to mention Littleton Legion Family is all over 100%. Our Auxiliary Unit is at 109% and the Sons of the American Legion Squadron membership is 171%!!!!

Now I strongly encourage the rest of you who have not yet renewed to do so. If you are having financial difficulty, please let me know and we will try to help. Each and every member is important to us, so even if you cannot participate in meetings or activities you are a vital part of our team. In addition to our remaining renewals we must continue working on recruiting new Post members that are new to the Legion as well as transferring some into our Post from the Department Holding Posts. This will help us to continue to grow in the future and will be one of the efforts we will focus on over the next few months. As the Department of Colorado Commander Carol Kennedy said "Littleton Post 103 is Rocking!!!". Let's keep it going.

We started the New Year off in great fashion with a Post Breakfast even though the weather was not very cooperative. I thank 1st Vice Commander Lynn Peterson for taking over leadership of the breakfast and all the brave attendees who tackled the drive to the Elks Lodge.

Roger Masse and I could not attend the breakfast because we were slowly trekking up to Westminster to observe the Department Oratorical Contest. Thanks to Roger's efforts, the Post had two contestants, the most of any Post in the contest. We came close but our contestants did not win first place but they made us proud, received scholarship funds and represented the Post well. Congratulations to Roger Masse and our Heritage High School representatives Cameron Thompson and Hunter Bacon for a job well done. More details and pictures will follow later in the newsletter.

We had another good turnout at the Post Meeting considering the weather and the fact it was moved back a week until January 8th because of the New Year's Holiday. I thank all of you for attending and participating. Even with the discussion of the 2014 budget, the meeting moved along and we finished in an hour. We have a few new programs we added to the budget along with our regular programs. We are very grateful to all our Bingo volunteers for raising the funds to help pay for our Post Programs and operations each year. Please see the Bingo write up and the call for extra help at the Must GO later in this newsletter. We had four new visitors to the Post meeting and they all seemed to want to become part of what's happening in Post 103.

It was sad and shocking when we learned about the shooting at Arapahoe High School (AHS) and the passing of Claire Davis in December. Many of us in this area know of students attending AHS or have friends who have students at Arapahoe. One of our Post's new programs will be a \$2,000 scholarship in the name of Claire Davis for a student at AHS. Let's all keep Claire and her family and the students, faculty and staff at AHS in our thoughts and prayers.

Sherry and I thank you all for your kind words, cards, emails, thoughts and prayers regarding the passing of her Mother in December.

We are the "Leader Post".

Ed Pietsch
Commander

General Meeting Minutes

We started our meeting with a Post Everlasting we honor our Comrades, Roy Grice and Kent Lazo who have been called from our mist, we honor the memory of our departed comrades.

Commander Ed Pietsch will be sending the family members a Post Everlasting Resolution.

Opening ceremonies and recitals were resumed.

Acknowledgement of Past Commanders: Bud Goodwin, Mike Romero and Dean Casey. Thanks to one and all for fulfilling this vital role!

Adjutant Harry Ciruli declared that there was a quorum present.

The minutes of the December 2013 Meeting has been sent either electronically or hard copy by mail. There were no changes to the minutes, so they were accepted as written.

Guest at tonight's meeting included Charles Hatten, Bob Storjohann, (both have already joined our Post as new members), Bill Brudwick and Jim Fitzpatrick. Also present was past Boys State Representative and a representative of Future Business Leaders of America, Scott Neff.

Officers Reports

Harry Ciruli – Adjutant: I need a copy of your DD-214 for our records. You can e-mail them to me, or send them to the Post mail box. We are required to show proof that all members were honorably discharged. I currently have 136 in my possession. You can call me to see if I already have yours on file. My phone number is 720-287-2139. This is very important.

Lynn Peterson - 1st. Vice Commander:

Membership

In 2014 Lets Continue to Make a Difference. Invite & bring a guest (veteran, relative, friend, neighbor or acquaintance) to our monthly membership meetings!!! **Renew, Stay Active & Help Keep Up the Tradition as “The Leader Post”**

Also, Remember to Share: “Why We Do What We Do?” Because.....We Believe in Patriotism, Helping our Veterans, our Youth & Communities!!!! If You Believe, Join Us & Make a Difference.

Post Publicity

Be on the look out.....a George C. Evans Post 103 advertisement is coming to town in your local weekly community newspaper – *Denver Post Your Hub, Littleton Independent, & Columbine Courier*. If you see one of these articles please share & pass along to others.

American Legion Baseball

New SAL Member & Littleton High School Junior Student Joey Drennan continues to volunteer to assist the Post and the Legion. He recently completed a Special Graphic Design & Marketing Project for the Colorado American Legion Baseball (CALB) Commission by developing a state-wide 2014 CALB Program Marketing Brochure. Thanks Joey.....Great Effort & Job!!

With Executive Board approval and continuing interest in further promoting American Legion Baseball, the Heritage High School Eagles Baseball Program will be contacted for their renewed interest in & participation in Colorado's American Legion Baseball Program.

Rich Callan - 2nd. Vice Commander:

Boys State is going along fine with four candidates that we will be interviewed beginning next week.

I obtain the permit for the **Post Picnic** will be at Sterne Park on July 12th.

Oratorical Program – Roger Masse

The Department Oratorical Competition was held on Jan 4th and the Post sponsored two participants Cameron Thompson and Hunter Bacon both from Heritage High School. Both Boys presented their speech to Post judges on December 15th in order to be certified for the Department contest. We thank all those who helped judge, time or provide comments at the Buck Center. Both contestants competed at DeVry University in the Department contests. The winner was a home schooled student sponsored by Aurora Post 23 and she will be headed for the National contest in Indianapolis in early April. Cameron Thompson came in second place and received a \$750 scholarship and Hunter Bacon was an honorable mention and he earned a \$400 scholarship. Both boys plan on attending Boys State and both can compete again next year and Cameron for the next two years. Great job all.



Commander, Camron, Hunter and Chairman Roger Masse Commander Carol Kennedy presenting 2nd place award

Financial Report - George Williams: Thanks to the prompt payment of dues by our membership, our income has exceeded our expenses the past weeks. Keep up the good work.

Peter Schroder- Chaplain: Dear members and spouses, please notify the Chaplain Peter Schroder, when you know of any person was special needs. 303-795-1243

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

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

JAG -Duane Leiker: No Report.

AVHG- Harry Giglio: The Post conducted 189 funeral honors in 2013.

Bingo Manager - Cal Wilson: - **Bingo - MUST GO**

We had a snow day in December when we cancelled the session followed by three pretty good days. We ended the month with a profit of \$2,242 and ended the year on a positive note with our best year compared with the past several.

We Need You!!! Our next Must Go date is scheduled for Thursday, January 16th.

The Must Go is where the Progressive Bingo Jackpot of \$5,356 will be paid out to some lucky winner(s). Our attendance usually doubles at "Must Go" sessions and we always need extra help on these days. Many of our regular volunteers and Must Go helpers will not be available this time. If you can volunteer about 4 hours of your time, we would truly appreciate it. The crowds come early on Must Go days, so please try to be at Slammers between 9:30 and 10:00 a.m. Please email e_pietsch@msn.com or call Ed at 720-287-2108 to let him know if you can be there.

Slammers Bingo Hall is located at 1884 South Wadsworth Blvd. (the northeast corner of Wadsworth and Jewell). Our Bingo session starts at 11:30 am and ends about 2 pm. Please come out to volunteer or to play.

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 :

Second quarter report to state submitted on December 31. For the quarter \$7,294, of the \$20,000 grant, expended to help 12 veterans. An unknown number of vets were assisted with King Soopers gift cards. Third advance in the amount of \$3,709.00 received December 12th, bringing our bank balance to \$4,165.49.

Application for the 2014/2015 grant is due by March 1. With Rick Stewart back in his office (absent most of December attending to his deceased father's funeral and estate) fund activity most likely will pick up.

Historian - Gene Foyle: All photos were taken by Gene Foyle, thank you Gene.

SAL – Nick Arceo: We are now at 13 members, and looking for more!!

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

The Post reviewed the draft 2014 Income and Expense Budget and a motion was made and seconded to approve the Budget. The motion passed.

Around the State

Mid-Year Conference will be January 17, 18, and 19, 2014 in Longmont Colorado. We will have one of our American Legion Family largest delegations ever for a Mid-Year Conference. We will have nine Legionnaires, five SAL including our SAL Commander and 4 dual members, and two Auxiliary members attending. The Sons of the American Legion National Commander Joe Gladden will be attending the conference.

For the Good of the Order.

A 50/50 drawing was held, and the lucky recipient was guest Bill Brudwick. He donated his winnings to the Post. A good choice and thanks Bill!

Make a date to see the newly released movie “Lone Survivor” - a True Story of Navy Seal Heroism including Littleton’s Danny Dietz.

The meeting was adjourned at 2008 hours followed by refreshments.

Special Notes

Post 103 Spotlights - Chuck Blemler



World War II - United States Army

11th Airborne Division 1944-1946

Basic Training at Fort Croft S. Carolina

Parachute Training at Fort Benning GA

11th Airborne area of operations during the war was Leyte and Luzon Philippines

American Legion Post 103 duties included Judge Advocate and All Veterans Honor Guard. He is the keeper of the guns for AVHG and is a backup Rifle Team Commander. Chuck has been married to Thelma Blemler for 62 years and they had two children one daughter and a son who has passed away.

"Voices of the Manhattan Project" - Fay Cunningham

Post member Fay Cunningham was interviewed about his participation in the Manhattan Project. The full interview can be found at <http://manhattanprojectvoices.org>. The summary of Fay's interview that was provided on the website is included below. Unfortunately, Fay's picture on the website could not be copied for inclusion here.

"Fay Cunningham joined the Manhattan Project in 1944 as a metallurgical engineer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Cunningham and his team of engineers helped to develop a mechanized process for producing crucibles that were used in the separation of uranium and plutonium. After the war, Cunningham served as a radiation monitor for the nuclear tests at Bikini Atoll during Operation Crossroads. His job was to survey the radiological damage on navy ships that were positioned around the epicenter of the nuclear explosion. Cunningham recalls climbing cargo nets dangling from the bow of a ship while trying to hold on to a fifteen-pound Geiger counter. After Operation Crossroads, Cunningham returned to Michigan State and completed his degree in chemical engineering."

Coming Events

February Post Meeting

We will be having Initiations at this meeting so please let Commander Ed know ahead of time if you will be initiated. Ed can be reached at 720-287-2108, or e_pietsch@msn.com. If we know ahead of the meeting we can have a Certificate document and pins prepared for you.

District 5 Commander and Department Service Officer Dean Casey will also be present.

We will have a presentation by Joyce Tuepker and Steven Uretsky on the Young Marines Program and ways we can potentially work together on various activities.

We will also have our annual **Four Chaplains** presentation by Post Chaplain Peter Schroder and a brief ceremony in honor of our namesake, George C. Evans', birthday.

Honoring WWII Veterans

The Post will be working with the VFW on a program to honor WWII veterans from both our Posts and the community. We will be meeting in early February to work out the timing, scope and content of the event. We have already lost too many members of this group of veterans without having a special day of recognition in their honor. As plans progress we will provide updates and will be looking for assistance.





Darlene Romero, President

303-973-2493



Darlene_Romero@msn.com

We had a good meeting on January 8th. We had twelve members in attendance, including our newest member, Ursula Pansini. Our guests were Kathy Fitzpatrick, and Ginny Storjohann. We also had two Girls State delegates, Annie Green and Lizzie Stephani telling us about their experience at Girls State.

Warm clothes that our Unit bought and donated were delivered in December to the VA hospital for Veterans in need.

We are also going to take toiletries, draw string bags and lap blankets to Mid-Year January 17th and 18th. We will take them to our Department Junior Auxiliary President, Ayanna Espinola and other Jr. Members for their projects in helping Veterans.

Thank You to JoAnn Giglio for making the draw string bags and lap blankets.

We are still collecting travel size toiletries, pop can tops, cancelled stamps, plastic grocery bags and used printer cartridges. The food of the month for the Veterans Redistribution Center is canned meat or any canned food or pasta.

Membership: We are at 109.4% and have 36 members. If you would like to join, you can call me at 303-973-2493.

Bingo is having a Must Go on January 16th. We will need extra help selling pickles and specials, so if anyone would like help out we would appreciate it.

Our next meeting is February 5th.

Darlene Romero
President

