



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

“The Leader Post” February 2014

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

Website-www.legionpost103.org



UPCOMING EVENTS:

2-13-2014- Bingo – Slammers Bingo Hall

2-20-2014- Bingo – Slammers Bingo Hall

2-21-2014- Englewood Elks VA Patients Dinner 5:30PM

2-24-2014- Bingo – Slammers Bingo Hall

3-01-2014- Membership Drive-Englewood Elks 9-5

3-03-2014- Officers Meeting 7PM Buck Rec Center

3-05-2014- General Membership Meeting – 7PM Buck Rec Center

3-06-2014- Bingo – Slammers Bingo Hall

3-13-2014- Bingo – Slammers Bingo Hall

3-15-2014- Post Breakfast- 9AM Englewood Elks Lodge

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 another good turnout for the February meeting I thank everyone for fighting the weather and the messy streets to make it. All in attendance want to compliment Past Commander Wayne Coleman for putting together a wonderful Four Chaplains Ceremony with the participation of Peter Schroder, Carter Jones, Fred Himelspace, Past Commander Mike Romero and Rich Callan. I want to thank all the participants for a very moving service as we learned a little personal information about each of the chaplains, their bravery and sacrifice.

Another tradition at our February meeting is the celebration of the birthday of our namesake, George C. Evans. George was born on February 8, 1901 and lived to be 100 years old. Most of us newer Post members never had the opportunity to know George C. Evans. We thank all the members who shared some of their memories of George and provided some insight into his character and qualities. Thanks also go to Roger Masse and Susan Murphy-Jacobs for making and bringing cupcakes for everyone to share in George’s honor.

We also heard from our District 5 Commander, Department Service Officer and Past Post Commander Dean Casey. The District and our Post has reached our 100% membership goal and the Department of Colorado is in 2nd place in the nation. The Post also achieved our All Time High. The S.A.L. Squadron and the Auxiliary are also over 100% membership. The entire Littleton Legion Family is “Rocking”!

February is a pretty busy month. On February 7th, a Post Honor Guard presented and posted the colors for the opening ceremony of the Future Business Leaders of America district meeting held at the Denver First Church of the Nazarene in Englewood. That was followed by the All Veterans Honor Guard (AVHG) participation in a special service at Ft. Logan on Saturday February 8th to honor those veterans who did not receive formal honors when they were buried. This is a very moving ceremony that everyone should attend at least once.

Later in the month, on February 21st, members of the AVHG will attend the annual Englewood Elks Lodge dinner given to honor some of the patients at the Veterans Administration Medical Center.

On Saturday March 1st we will kick off the month with a Membership Open House for the District which we will host at the Englewood Elks Lodge from 9am to 5 pm. We need some volunteers to meet and greet potential new members as well as to call Legionnaires who have signed up to join the Legion but do not yet belong to a local Post. We did this last year and it resulted in the success we are experiencing this year. You can spend the whole day or a few hours. You will need to bring a cell phone. Please let me know if you can help. Our next membership meeting is on March 5th and we will have a Post Breakfast on March 15th at the Englewood Elks Lodge.

During January we had a Must Go and a very successful month overall. The money raised through Bingo pays for most of the Post expenses. I thank all our regular workers who show up every Thursday plus those who others who help out at the Must Go. Without you the Post could not be as successful or provide as many programs and projects for the veterans, their families and the community.

If you have any questions, comments or ideas for new projects, please let me know by calling 720-287-2108 or by e-mail e_pietsch@msn.com.

I thank each of you for all you do.

We are the “**Leader Post**”.

Ed Pietsch
Commander

General Meeting Minutes

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

Opening ceremonies and recitals were conducted.

Acknowledgement of Past Commanders: Bud Goodwin, Mike Romero, Dean Casey, Pat Callahan, and Wayne Coleman. It was good to see Pat and Wayne again. Thanks to one and all for fulfilling this vital role!

Adjutant Harry Ciruli declared that there was a quorum present.

The minutes of the January 2014 meeting has been sent either electronically or hard copy by mail. There were no changes to the minutes, so they were accepted as written.

Guests at tonight's meeting include Carl Cornelius, who became a new member and District 5 Commander Dean Casey.

Initiation: Charles Hatten and Bill Brudwick were initiated into the American Legion, welcome to the George C. Evans Post.



Initiation of Charles Hatten and Bill Brudwick



Visitor Carl Cornelius

Officers Reports

Harry Ciruli – Adjutant: I need a copy of your DD-214 for our records. You can e-mail it to me, or send them to the Post mail box. We are required to show proof that all members were honorably discharged. I have 136 at present. You can call me to see if I already have yours on file. My phone No. is 720-287-2139. This is very important.

Lynn Peterson - 1st. Vice Commander:

Membership Open House

Please join us and become involved in our District 5 Membership Drive at the Englewood Elks Lodge on Saturday March 1st from 9AM – 5PM. Remember to bring a cell phone. We will be recruiting area walk-ins and those already in the Legion but not assigned to a Post.

Membership

In 2014 lets continue to make a difference.....Invite & bring a guest - “Veteran” Relative, Friend, Neighbor or Acquaintance - to our regular monthly membership meetings!!! Renew, stay active & help keep up the tradition as “The Leader Post”

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.

Local Publications

Look for our George C. Evans Post 103 meeting announcements.....currently published in each of our Local Littleton Area Weekly Thursday Edition Community Newspapers – *Denver Post Your Hub, Littleton Independent, & Columbine Courier*. Share & pass along to others.

American Legion Baseball I have invited Heritage High School to consider rejoining us for this season of Legion Baseball. We will again have teams from Littleton High School sponsored by the Post.

Rich Callan - 2nd. Vice Commander:

Boys State is going along fine. The Post currently has 3 candidates for Boys State. Please ask your friends and neighbors if they know a junior in high school and please let them know about the program. Have them contact me or go online at www.colegionboysstate.org.

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 with 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 AVHG performed the special monthly service schedules for Saturday, February 8th at Ft. Logan Cemetery, Shelter A at 11:00AM.

Bingo Manager - Cal Wilson:

We had a great Must Go and a great first month of the year. We have to go back to January 2013 to find a better month for the Post Bingo operations. 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 1:45 pm.

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 : As of this writing the Post has expended \$11,000 of the \$20,000 grant received for 2013/2014 and has assisted twenty-one (21) veterans with rent and utilities. Many others have received food assistance through King Soopers gift cards. Our fund balance is now at \$2,312 – time to ask for the fifth advance on the remaining grant funds.

I, as your Post Service Officer, am here to assist you with whatever assistance you may need through our grant money and the VA. I may not know the answer to your needs but I do have contacts that can steer you in the correct direction – please do not hesitate to call me at 303-770-2857 or drop me an e-mail at pdcal@q.com I'm here to help!

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

SAL – Nick Arceo: I had a great time at our Mid-Year Conference. Our SAL group was well represented. What a great year 2013 was for the Detachment of Colorado. We had the pleasure of introducing our own Mike Moss as the leading candidate for The Sons of the American Legion Commander. Mike laid out his vision of where he wants to take our organization and his theme is "Building Bridges to the Future". Our honored guest for the weekend was National Commander Joe Gladden. He delivered much advice and inspiration. As of Feb. 8, the Detachment of Colorado stands at 2,272 members. Post 103 is at 14 SAL members, 200%! Great job! I'm still looking to grow our SAL group this year. Remember, you can join and become a dual member! Please see myself or SAL Adjutant Harry Ciruli for information.

The Son's have a long and proud history of supporting the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF). Colorado's support is honored with a special commemorative pin. All money from the pins will go to CFW. I can show you this beautiful pin and order one for you. The cost of the pin is \$5.00

God Bless American and God Bless The American Legion and the SAL.

Boys State: see 2nd Vice Commander Report

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: None.

For the Good of the Order. A 50/50 drawing was held, and the lucky recipient was Nick Arceo. He donated his winnings to Boys State. A good choice and thanks Nick!

Four Chaplains Ceremony

Past Commander Wayne Coleman led the Post in this ceremony assisted by Chaplin Peter Schroder, Carter Jones, Past Commander Mike Romero, Fred Himelspach, and Rich Callan.



The meeting was adjourned at 2022 hours to celebrate George C. Evans birthday and to enjoy refreshments in his honor. Several members shared memories about George.



Legion Family listening to Four Chaplains Ceremony



Lynn Peterson Holding picture of George C. Evans

Did You Know??

Mid-Year Conference/Annual Convention

We had a great turnout at the Mid-Year Conference with nine representatives from the Post, four from the S.A. L. Squadron including three dual members and we also had two representatives from the Auxiliary. Thank you all for attending and learning about the American Legion Family programs and activities.

We are already beginning plans for the Annual Convention in LaMar, June 19-22, 2014. Please let Harry Ciruli know if you would like to attend so we can help arrange for hotels.

Job Listings

Darrell Myers from the Department of Colorado does an excellent job of getting out employment opportunities for veterans. If you are interested in a job or know a veteran who is, please email Ed Pietsch at e_pietsch@msn.com and I will include you/them on my distribution list. Sometimes the same job may get included on multiple listings. We usually get emailed a couple lists each week.

SE Colorado Springs Cemetery

The VA has purchased land for the new Cemetery for southern Colorado. It will take some time to get the budget and begin construction of the infrastructure at the new cemetery. So it may be a while before it opens. The American Legion and other veterans' organizations have been pushing for the development of a new cemetery in the Colorado Springs area for several years to help ease the burden on Ft. Logan Cemetery.

Executive Board Actions

The Board approved a \$100 donation to the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in honor of the brave chaplains, and to help carry their message of interfaith cooperation and selfless service to every part of the nation.

The Board approved changes to the Post Policies and Standards Guidelines to incorporate updates to the Expense Account Codes and Description resulting from approval of the Post 2014 Budget on January 8, 2014.

Honoring the Greatest Generation

We are working with the VFW on a program to honor WWII veterans and spouses to be held on June 7th at the Littleton WWII Memorial. Radio celebrity Rick Crandall will moderate the event. We are looking for ideas or USO style entertainers who may contribute to the memories of this era. We have already lost too many members of this era of veterans without having a special day of recognition to honor them. If you have any suggestions or know of group of singers, dancers or whatever suggestions you may have please call me at 720-287-2108 or email e_pietsch@msn.com. We would like to make this a special event.

TBI/PTSD Survey

The American Legion is encouraging all veterans with traumatic brain injury (TBI) or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) to participate in its online survey during the month of February. The survey includes questions that concern gender, era of service, number of times deployed, TBI and/or PTSD diagnoses, scheduling, types of treatment, reported symptoms and side effects.

The American Legion is very concerned by the unprecedented number of veterans who suffer from these two conditions. This survey will help to provide information so the American Legion can advocate the adoption of all effective treatments and cures, including alternatives being used in the private sector.

Please email this to any veterans you know of who may be interested in taking this survey.



Please press CTRL and Click your mouse on the picture to access the survey.

Special Service at Ft. Logan February 8th



Post Spotlight: Pat Callahan

Air Force Master Sargent (Retired) with 21 years of service including Korean War and Vietnam War. He went to Lackland Air Force Base for basic training and the University of Alabama for technical school. Duty Stations included Berger Park RAF –England Great Britain, Whiteman Air Force Base- Missouri, Omaha SAC Headquarters, RAF- Heyford England Great Britain, Omaha SAC Headquarters, Curat Thailand and RAF Laken Heath England Great Britain.



Married for 59 years to his wife Margaret, they were married in England September 4, 1954.

They have three children Robert, Gary, Laura.

Worked for the Electron Corporation.

Pat was one of the original members when they revitalized the Post in 1993. He has served as the Post Adjutant for 13 years, Post Commander, and Post Service Officer for seven years. He was recognized for his outstanding service to veterans by the Department of Colorado and National. Pat was one of the original members to start the Post bingo operations, and the All Veterans Honor Guard program. He is still an active Bingo Manager today. The Post has been very fortunate that Pat Callahan and a handful of other leaders took the Post from the brink of losing its Charter to becoming the “Leader Post”.





Darlene Romero, President

303-973-2493

Darlene_Romero@msn.com



Thanks to all the members that braved the cold for our February 5th meeting, we had 8 members in attendance.

We were happy to see Jean Jesser at our meeting. I'm sure everyone at Bingo will be happy to see her also. Welcome back Jean!

Our membership is growing. We have 36 members and are 112.5%, and if anyone would like to join you can call Jean at 303-471-4643.

We're still collecting food for the Veteran's Distribution Center. The food for March is rice. Also, plastic grocery bags, cancelled stamps, pop can tops and used printer cartridges.

We are still collecting clothes for the veterans at the VA hospital. We took several bags of clothes to the VA in December. We still have over \$200.00 left that Post 103 donated to us to buy clothes. They will be delivered by the end of the February or early March.

Upcoming events: Post Breakfast, Englewood Elks Lodge, March 15th. At 9:00AM.
We will have elections of new officers in May.

Our next meeting is March 5th.

Darlene Romero
President