



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

“The Leader Post” April 2014

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 Website-www.legionpost103.org



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 4-10-2014 - Bingo – Slammers Bingo Hall
- 4-17-2014 - Bingo – Slammers Bingo Hall **“Must GO”**
- 4-24-2014 - Bingo – Slammers Bingo Hall
- 5-1-2014 - Bingo – Slammers Bingo Hall
- 5-3-2014 - Post Breakfast-Englewood Elks-9:00-11:00
- 5-5-2014 - Officers meeting- Buck Rec. Center-7:00 PM.
- 5-7-2014 - General Membership Meeting- Buck Rec. Center- 7 PM
- 5-8-2014 - Bingo – Slammers Bingo Hall
- 5-10-2014 - District 5 Conference Aurora Post 23 10 AM
- 5-15-2014 - 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: Thank you to all who attended the April 2nd General Membership Meeting, we had another great turnout, tried a new seating arrangement to accommodate our larger number of attendees and we once again initiated new members into the Legion and also the S.A.L. We also had a visit from District 5 Senior Vice Commander, Terri Shelefontiuk who will be running for District 5 Commander in May. We are off to a great start to 2014 thanks to each of you.

Other than meetings, Bingo and the All Veterans Honor Guard services, the early months each year are a little slow even though we conducted Honor Guard Ceremonies at several public events and attended preparatory meetings for upcoming activities in the busy months ahead. We also had another Post Breakfast on March 15th with a great turnout of 56 attendees.

Our Program Managers are working hard to line up teams for Legion Baseball and candidates to attend Boys State. Lynn Peterson and Rich Callan do an outstanding job for their respective programs. Please consider giving them a helping hand. In the next few months we will be having patriotic celebrations, attending school classrooms, doing Flag presentations, parades, our Post picnic and many other activities and I encourage you to get involved in something of interest to you.

I mentioned the new seating arrangement and to date we received only one comment. That comment was concerned with the difficulty of members sitting in chairs to rise, stand, salute, etc. without the table for support. This is especially applicable to some of the more senior members and members with medical conditions which make standing difficult. We knew we would be sacrificing the comfort of taking notes and securing your drink without the tables but did not anticipate this issue. I would like to hear more comments from those who attended. The Board will continue to look for ways to improve the meeting environment; we do not want to lose attendees because of our floor plan. Please send any comments and suggestions to e_pietsch@msn.com or 720-287-2108.

I again thank Past Commanders Mike Romero and Bud Goodwin for serving on the Nominating Committee. Please see their report on the bottom of page 6 in this newsletter.

Bingo provides the Post the revenue needed to run all the Programs that we do, please come out to join our regular volunteers to help out at our “Must Go” on April 17th. See the Bingo Report information on page 5 in this newsletter.

I hope to see you at the Post Breakfast on May 3rd at the Englewood Elks Lodge. (See page 4)

I thank each of you for all you do; our Legion Family is having a great year – let’s keep it going. **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: John Palmquist, Rich Carlson, Mike Romero, Dean Casey, and Pat Callahan. Thanks to one and all for fulfilling this vital role!

Adjutant Harry Ciruli declared that there was a quorum present.

The minutes of the March 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.

Our guests tonight were, Terri Shelefontiuk, District 5 Senior Vice Commander, Coach Bernie Bernhardt from Littleton High School, Dean Creager our newest SAL member, and new Legionnaires Gary Gambrel, US Navy, Vietnam Veteran, Joe Helm Kemp, US Navy, Vietnam Veteran, and Bob Storjohann, US Army, Vietnam Veteran.

SAL and Legion initiations were conducted and we welcome you all to the George C. Evans Legion Family.

Initiation Ceremonies



We heard brief comments from Coach Bernie about his appreciation for Post 103 support to the Littleton Lions baseball teams playing Legion Baseball and District 5 Senior Vice Commander Terri Shefontiuk thanked the Post for her visit and offered her advice and assistance on any problems or concerns.

Officers Reports

Harry Ciruli – Adjutant: At present we have 484 paid members. We also have 16 SAL members. We are required to show proof that all Legion members were honorably discharged. I have 141 DD214 or other documents at present. 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 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 Advertisement currently published in each of our Local Littleton Area Weekly Thursday Edition Community Newspapers – *Denver Post YourHub, Littleton Independent, & Columbine Courier*. Share & pass along to others.

New Committees Being Proposed: Several new committees are being proposed to enhance the Post operations and effectiveness. These include: Community Relations/Publicity, Fundraising & Member Hospitality. If you have an interest in serving as Committee Chair or as a Committee Member, please let your interest be known. It is expected these new committees will phase into Post operations with the upcoming 2014/2015 Legion Year.

Post 103 American Legion Family Interest Form: Due to increasing Post 103 membership combined with an innate sense of being a part of a great organization, a *Post 103 Family Member Interest Activity Form* is being developed, which will help further assist Post Leadership by identifying, connecting with & serving others inside our American Legion Post Family and our community with planned inter-active Post activities, functions & events - utilizing our members Interests, Gifts & Talents. Stay Tuned.....

American Legion Baseball: For the Upcoming 2014 Summer American Legion Baseball Program, Post 103 will be sponsoring two local High School Baseball Teams. Littleton Lions Head Coach Bernie Bernhardt attended our April General Membership Meeting with a short presentation & Thank You to Post 103. Heritage Eagles Head Coach Scott Hormann was unable to attend.

George C. Evans Post 103 2014 Sponsored Local High School Baseball Teams:

Littleton High School Lions Baseball Teams – Bernie Bernhardt, Head Baseball Coach

- a. Legion B – 17 & Under
- b. Legion C - 16 & Under
- c. Legion D - Incoming Freshmen

Heritage High School Eagles Baseball Team – Scott Hormann, Head Baseball Coach

- d. Legion D – Incoming Freshmen

Upon completion of the April Colorado American Legion Baseball Team Registration Meetings, the game schedule for all teams will be posted in May on our Post 103 Website legionpost103.org. League games will begin in late May and run thru mid-July.

Stay tuned for and plan to attend our annual baseball team BBQ and Post 103 appreciation game event. Details will follow in May or June.

Rich Callan - 2nd. Vice Commander:

Post Breakfast: The Post Breakfast is on May 3rd at the Englewood Elks Lodge. This Breakfast was moved to the earlier date because of a conflict in the Elks Lodge schedule.



This is a great opportunity for new members to come out and meet your fellow Legionnaires and their families. The cost is only \$5 per person and family and friends are invited. The address is 3690 S. Jason St. Englewood, 80110

Picture from March 15th Breakfast

Memorial Day: Memorial Day - May 26th the Post will once again be hosting three Ceremonies at the Littleton Cemetery at 8 am, the Littleton World War II Memorial at 10am and the Chapel Hill Cemetery at 11:30 am. Please plan on joining us at one or more of these Ceremonies. The Post and VFW will host the first two ceremonies and the Post will host the Chapel Hill Ceremony along with the Olinger Chapel Hill staff.

Poppy sales: Memorial Day weekend, May 24 & 25 the Legion and S.A.L. will be helping the Auxiliary Unit sell poppies at the King Soopers store in Highlands Ranch. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the May Meeting.

Boys State: We are going to redouble our efforts to get juniors to register for Boy's State. We are going to revisit the area High Schools and Home Schooled students.

Financial Report - George Williams: Post expenses were slightly more than the income for the month which is expected at this time of year.

Peter Schroder- Chaplain: Asked us to say a prayer for the Fort Hood Victims. Dear members and spouses, please notify the Chaplain Peter Schroder, when you know of any person that has 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: Funerals since January 1st. 41, March we had 17.

All Veterans Honor Guard – Special Service: No Report

Bingo Manager - Cal Wilson: - We had a good March earning just over \$1,900 in profits and we paid out about \$1000 in Post expenses including a \$750 donation to Tom and Elaine Bock's daughter, Kristi and granddaughter, Dominique whose home burned down.

We Need You!!! Our next Must Go date is scheduled for April 17th. The Must Go is where the Progressive Bingo Jackpot of over \$5,000 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. If you can volunteer about 4 hours of your time, we would truly appreciate it. The crowds comes early on Must Go days, so please try to be at Slammers Bingo Hall which is located at 1884 South Wadsworth Boulevard (the northeast corner of Wadsworth and Jewell) 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 or if you have any questions.

Service Officer - Pat Callahan 3rd Quarter trust fund report sent in as of the end of March. We used \$13,372 of the \$16,000 provided to date. Anticipate some greater payouts in excess of \$500 to some individuals this quarter.

The fourth quarter began by the Post helping a veteran in transit to a new job by paying his family's hotel expense for one night. He was to get an advance on his rent from his new employer the following day.

Should there be a Post member (family) needing financial or other assistance, please call me at 303-770-2857 or e-mail at pdcal@q.com. I may not know all the answers but have ways of referral to those in the know.

Historian - Gene Foyle: Photos and Spotlight

SAL – Nick Arceo:

I want to take time to welcome our two newest SAL members. Bob Sena, a transfer to our Squadron and Dean Creager. Both of these men joined in honor of their fathers' service to our great country. Bob's father was in the U.S. Army and Dean's Father was in the U.S. Navy. Welcome to both of you! Our Squadron looks forward to your membership and hope to see you at our meetings. I'm happy to report we are now standing tall with 16 SAL members! That's over 229% of our goal! Thank you so much! Colorado has 2,178 SAL members. Across the Nation, our organization has 301,119 members supporting The American Legion. Some of our members are considered "Dual Members", simply put these men are both Legionaries and SAL members. If your father or grandfather served in service to our Country, you're eligible to become a Dual Member. Please see me for a SAL membership. What a great way to honor your father or grandfather.

April is Children & Youth Month. The Colorado Sons have a long and proud history of supporting Colorado's support to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) is honored with a special commemorative pin. All monies from this pin will go to CWF. See me if you would like to purchase a pin, the cost is \$5.00. The foundation, celebrating its 60th year, provides nonprofit organizations with grants to educate the public about the care and welfare of children. So far this year the Sons have donated \$10,848. Thanks Sons!!

I'm in the process of putting together our first Golf Tournament for the Post. I'm hoping that all golfers will support this effort to raise funds for our Post/Squadron this summer. Information will be forthcoming. Anyone who would like to assist me on this project, contact me.

Nominations Mike Romero The nominations of candidates for next year's Post Officers will be presented at the May Membership Meeting with elections in June. Anyone interested in running for an office for the 2014 – 2015 Legion Year should contact the Nominating Committee Chairmen, Past Commanders Mike Romero (303-973-2493) and/or Bud Goodwin (303-794-9507).

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: None.

For the Good of the Order. A 50/50 drawing was held, and the lucky recipient was Danny Danforth. He donated his winnings to AVHG and the other half goes to Meals on Wheels. A good choice and thanks Danny!

The Legion will be manning a membership booth at the Colorado Convention Center on June 13-14-15 for Comic Con. Denver Comic Con is a program of Comic Book Classroom, a Colorado-based nonprofit organization fighting for literacy and arts. This pop culture event features collectables, gaming, family fun, plus celebrities and artists from the worlds of film, television and of course comic books. All proceeds benefit Comic Book Classroom's educational endeavors.

Those members who served in Korean during and after the War may be eligible to receive the Korean book honoring those who served. Copies are limited and are going fast. It was put together by the South Korean government and is reportedly a very nice book to have. Please provide your name to Dean Casey's office at 303-914-5585 or via email Lorn.Casey@va.gov.

To get the Korean Defense Medal you must have served in Korea for 60 days or longer. To see if you are eligible you can look up "Korean Defense Medal" on Google and see the eligibility requirements and how to apply for it.

The meeting was adjourned at 2003 hours followed by refreshments.



Littleton High School
Coach Bernie Bernhardt

discussing his Legion Baseball
Teams and thanking the Post for
our sponsorship

Members listening
to the Coach's
comments.



FYI

The Post is working with the Davis family and their representative to implement an annual scholarship in the memory of **Claire Davis**. The scholarship was approved by the Post in January and it has taken some time to have it presented to and approved by the family. We hope to have the first one awarded this year which would have been Claire's graduating class.

The Post will be presenting the retiring **Principal of Columbine High School**, Frank DeAngelis, with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Post for all he has done at Columbine and for the Littleton community.

The Highlands Ranch Post 1260 is hosting a **golf tournament** on July 11, 2014 at the Links Golf Course with a tee time of 7:45 am. The cost is \$125 per player which includes green fees, cart, breakfast, lunch, goodies bag and prizes. For more information contact Barry Fiore 303-507-6034.

Honoring The Greatest Generation

The Post is working with the VFW on a program to Honor the Greatest Generation which is to be held on June 7th at the Littleton WWII Memorial. Radio celebrity Rick Crandall will moderate the event. The Post/SAL is putting together a special document of our WWII veterans. This would include name, place of birth, a short summary of your duty locations and special events during the War. We will be sending out a questionnaire for you to complete or we will have helpers complete the questionnaire for you via telephone or in person. Additionally in July the Littleton Museum will be putting on a special WWII exhibit and hopes to interview some of our WWII veterans. Exhibit curator will be at the May or June Meeting to discuss her project.

Annual Conventions

The District 5 Convention is May 10th at the Aurora Post 23 starting at 10 am. In addition to reports and District business in preparation for the State Convention, there will be the election of new District 5 Officers. Please try to attend this event.

The Department of Colorado Annual Convention is in LaMar, June 19-22, 2014. Please let Harry Ciruli know if you would like to be a Post delegate to the convention.



New seating arrangements (tables on the side, theatre seating in the middle)

Post 103 Spotlight: John Palmquist



US Navy – WWII

March 1945 to August 1946

Petty Officer 3rd Class, Storekeeper

Basic training at Great Lakes Illinois

Stationed on Manicani

Island in the Philippines.

Worked in supply and procurement.

Volunteered for the Atomic testing program but had an opportunity to separate instead. Shortly before his ship arrived in San Francisco for his

subsequent trip home to Minnesota and separation from the Navy, he received new orders diverting him to Treasure Island for his last three months of duty.

What John liked the most about being on the Manicani Island was the only time he saw the Lieutenant Commander was when reporting for duty and leaving the Command.

During the war John was able to save his pay, his leave and this along with his discharge pay; he had enough money to make a down payment on a convenience store for his father, who had always wanted to be his own boss.

Before WWII John had attended the University of Saint Thomas in Saint Paul, Minnesota and completed three years. After the Navy he went to the P William Mitchell School of Law in Saint Paul and he was also in the Army National Guard. While in the last semester of law school he was activated for the Korean War in December 1950. The school awarded him his law degree even though he was not available for final exams. He was sent to Combat Intelligence School and as a Sargent 1st Class he trained soldiers in his platoon on various aspects of military intelligence in preparation for performing reconnaissance in the field.

John worked for Western Electric for many years, in several departments and at several locations. John retired from Western Electric in Denver in 1984 and did tax returns and real estate. John has been married to Auxiliary Member, Adreann for 27 years. John has eight children six boys and two girls and Adreann has two girls and a boy.

John was one of the American Legion members who revitalized the Post in 1993. He has held numerous positions including Finance Officer, Post Commander, AVHG member and Commander and the manager of the pickle bar at Bingo. The Post has been very fortunate that John and a handful of other key leaders took the Post from the brink of losing its Charter to becoming the “Leader Post”. John has also been selected as Legionnaire of the Year in 2010. John has been a friend, role model and mentor to many Post members.



Past Post Commander
Current District 5 Commander
Department Service Officer
Dean Casey

District 5
Senior Vice Commander
Terri Shefontiuk



Darlene Romero, President



303-973-2493

Darlene_Romero@msn.com

We had a good turnout for our April 2nd meeting. We had fourteen members and two guests, Darlene Folger and Ginny Storjohann.

The membership went over the By Laws, and made some additions. Sherry will add them and present them at the May meeting.

Marsha Callan will be the new Girls State Chairwoman.

Our membership is growing; we have 38 members and are 118%. If anyone would like to join our Unit, please call Jean at 303-771-2746 or Darlene at 303-973-2493.

We are still collecting food for the Veteran's Redistribution Center, and the food for May is fruit. They also are in need of canned vegetables, such as green beans, corn and peas. Also, we still need pop can tops, plastic grocery bags and empty printer cartridges.

Sherry Pietsch delivered \$250.00 worth of clothing to the VA hospital.

We had nominations for new Officers for 2014-2015.

The nominees were: Janelle Rodriguez – President, Darlene Romero- Vice President, Recording Secretary- Marsha Callan, Corresponding/Membership Secretary –Jean Jesser, Treasurer – Adreann Palmquist, Sergeant At Arms – JoAnn Giglio, Chaplain-Betty Smith, and Historian- Margaret Callahan.

The elections will be held at our May meeting.

Upcoming Events:

Our next meeting will be May 7th, 2014.

Post Breakfast at the Elks Lodge May 3rd at 9:00.

Must Go! April 17th. We will need extra help selling pickles and specials, or come in and play Bingo.

Darlene Romero
President