



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

“The Leader Post” December 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 12-15-2016 Bingo- Slammers Bingo Hall
- 12-22-2016 Bingo- Slammers Bingo Hall
- 12-29-2016 Bingo- Slammers Bingo Hall
- 1-2-Officers Meeting Buck Rec. Center 7:30 PM
- 1-4-General Membership Meeting Buck Rec. Center 7:00 PM
- 1-5-2016 Bingo- Slammers Bingo Hall
- 1-12-2016 Bingo- Slammers Bingo Hall
- 1-19-2016 Bingo- Slammers Bingo Hall
- 1-19-1-21-2017 Mid-Year Conference
- 1-24-2016 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 Blvd.



COMMANDERS COMMENTS: Commander Roger Masse

As we approach the end of 2016, it gives us a chance to reflect on the accomplishments of Post 103 over the past year. Here’s a recap:

We began the year with our monthly meetings and Post Breakfast events. These are always a great opportunity to reconnect and talk about the priorities of the Post. The statewide Oratorical Contest was held in March at Metro State, and members of Post 103 always play a large part in this statewide effort. Colorado Springs high school student Ryan Klimek won our state contest, and went on to compete at the national level.

Memorial Day is the traditional kickoff to summer, and marks the start of our busiest time of the year. After we participated in numerous Memorial Day events, many Post members were

involved in Colorado Boys State June 4-11. High school boys from around Colorado gathered for hands-on experience with the democratic principles and procedures of our nation, and the opportunity to earn college credit and scholarships.

At our meeting on July 6th we held the Installation of Officers Ceremony. It was great to be able to express our gratitude to Past Commander Rich Callan and the others who ended their tenure on the Executive Board that night. The Post 103 Annual Picnic in July was held at Cornerstone Park this year and was a great success. On July 22nd we enjoyed the SAL Golf Tournament at the Raccoon Creek Golf Course in Littleton. And in August we participated in the 88th Annual Western Welcome Week Grand Parade, where we were honored and celebrated by the Littleton community.

In September, Post 103 sponsored a luncheon for National Commander Charlie Schmidt. Many Post members attended, and in addition to enjoying Commander Schmidt's company we were privileged to present him with a check in the amount of \$500 for his charities. Membership drive efforts marked the fall of 2016, and volunteers First Vice Commander Lynn Peterson and Department of Colorado Service Officer Dean Casey did a great job drawing interest to Post 103. On Veterans Day, November 11th, we were again privileged to participate in community ceremonies honoring veterans, and then on the 12th we held our Annual Post Banquet where Post and community members were honored for their contributions to the mission of the Post.

Thanks to all of you who played a crucial role in the success of Post 103 in 2016. I am particularly grateful to the Executive Board for their support during my bout with West Nile Virus. Coming up after the holidays we have our monthly meeting Executive Board meeting on Monday, January 2nd and the general membership meeting on January 4th. And then I and some other members of the Executive Board will be attending the Midyear Conference later in January.

It is a privilege and an honor to serve Post 103 as your Commander this year. I wish you all a joyous holiday season and peace in the new y

Please let me know if you have any suggestions, questions or concerns for the Post. I'm excited for the remainder of the year, and continuing to serve as your Commander. Thank you.

Roger Masse
Commander, Post 103

General Meeting Minutes

Meeting was gaveled to order at 1900 hrs. Adjutant Harry Ciruli declared that there was a quorum present.

Past Commanders present at our Membership Meeting were: Dean Casey, Mike Romero, Ed Pietsch and Lynn Peterson.

Four WWII Veteran Members were also present; they were: Chuck Blemler, and Jack Pansini.

Officers Report

Harry Ciruli - Adjutant:

We have started the 2016-2017 Post year. As of today we have 368 members renewed out of 490. We are looking great; our goal has been set 420.

A copy of your DD214 is required to show proof that you as a Veteran were honorably discharged. I also need them in case a member's family can't find the DD214 for their loved ones funeral.

I have 146, DD214's currently on file. Please call me to confirm that I have your DD214 on file. My phone is: 720-287-2139. If there are any address and/or email changes let me know.

Remember please get your membership renewal in ASAP.

Lynn Peterson - 1st Vice Commander:

Membership / Recruitment

Progress is being made!! Currently, Post 103 Membership is at **80.48%**; and Growing!! As a Direct Result of Three Email Renewal Reminder Notifications in November **33** Post 103 Legionnaires have Renewed for 2017. Hearty Special & Appreciated Thanks. Congratulations, to Post 103 Legionnaires, as we have reached our Department's December 14th 75% Target Post Membership Goal.

So.....If you have Not Yet Renewed your 2017 Geo. C. Evans Post 103 Membership. Please do so immediately. RENEW NOW.....HELP US CONTINUE TO MAKE & KEEP Geo. C. Evans Post 103, Dept. of Colorado & The American Legion STRONG!!!,

As a Reminder.....Annual Post 103 Dues are \$40.00. You can RENEW simply by EITHER Sending a Check Payable to: George C. Evans Post 103; & Mail to: Adjutant Harry Ciruli, Geo. C. Evans Post 103, P.O. Box 281, Littleton, CO 80160 OR More quickly make via On-Line Credit/Debit Card Payment On-Line. Visit www.legion.org.

Additionally, as a Result of participation by Post 103 Legionnaire/S.A.L Members: JAG/Historian Joel Mendelson, S.A.L. Squadron Commander Nick Arceo & Myself, at the Nov. 18th & 19th District 5 & 6 Direct Mailing Solicitation (DMS) Recruitment Event, approximately **30** New Post 103 Members were Transferred in. **Valued Thanks Nick & Joel for your Participation, Assistance & Efforts!!**

Additionally, Additionally... as a Result of Participation by Post 103 Legionnaire/S.A.L. Members: Dept. Service Officer/Post 103 Legionnaire Dean Casey, S.A.L. Squadron 103 Commander Nick Arceo & Myself, at our Post 103 Littleton Area Veterans Benefit/Recruitment Event held at Sam's Club, Littleton, CO approximately **20 - 25** Veteran Family's were assisted in VA Benefit consultations, which included approximately **10 -15** Veterans expressing Interest in Post 103 New Membership. Direct

Follow-ups with these Local Veterans & Potential New Post 103 Members is in progress. **Special Acknowledged Thanks Dean C., Nick A. & Joel M. for your Participation, Assistance & Efforts!**

Relatedly, as “Frosting on the Cake” at our Sam’s Club Veterans Event, we received an anonymous \$500.00 Donation Gift from an unknown Denver Resident.

Also, 540 of Dept. of Colorado’s New Tri-fold Recruitment Flyers, which included an additional 110 for my use & distribution, were handed out to attending Legionnaires at the November 3rd General Membership meeting for their timely distribution in the Littleton Community Area. Trust You All distributed your Flyers, as did I. Thanks!!!

Collectively, as a Result of these multiple Recruitment Events & Efforts, it is Expected Post 103 will Directly see an INCREASE in New Attending Post 103 Members at our upcoming Monthly General Membership Meetings....”Katy Open the Door”!!!!

Lastly, Individual Post 103 Legionnaire Recruitment efforts in November resulted in **1** New Member - Thomas Graham, US Army. Welcome Aboard Tom!!

Oratorical Report: We are starting to form a committee for the 2016-2017 Oratorical year. Site and Date are in the workings. If you would like to work on a committee or be an oratorical volunteer, Please contact Roger Masse at: 719-648-2818 or: drivercouch69@yahoo.com

Joyce Tuepker 2nd Vice Commander: Working on hand-off to John Mullin (Service Officer). Intent is to continue as Service Officer with John being the primary. I plan to assist where needed (paperwork, delivery of checks, working with ACVA, etc.).

Will be meeting with Janelle Rodriguez regarding the upcoming banquet on 12 November. There is a very short turnaround. Information will be sent out as plans are finalized.

Will continue to support the AVHG as much as possible.

Will continue to go through the paperwork I received regarding the 2nd Vice Commander position and come up to speed as quickly as possible.

Finance Officer - Ed Pietsch: We had another positive month in November with Post income exceeding expenses by about \$1,000. This is in large part due to donations to the All Veterans Honor Guard (AVHG) in the memory of John Palmquist. Funds were also received for membership renewals and a very generous couple donated \$500 to the Post’s members participating on a recruitment team that was set up at Sam’s Club. The Post expenses consisted of the usual: membership paid out to the Department and National as well AVHG expenses, the Post telephone and office supply expenses. Bingo funds paid for the Post annual donations to veteran organizations and other charities that had not yet been paid out in 2016. Additionally all expenses for the Post annual banquet were paid from Bingo.

In preparation for the 2017 budget process, the total Post income for 2016 was at 113% of the budget projections for 2016. Similarly through the end of November, the Post Expense Budget and the Bingo Budget were close to 2016 annual projections at 99% and 88% respectively.

2017 Budget

Work on the 2017 Budget has been ongoing for the last month. The Post Executive Board and the membership approved the Budget at the December meetings. A slight decrease in Post income has been planned for 2017 because of the decrease of funds retained by the Post with the 2016 increase in Nationals and Departments dues. We did receive some unanticipated income in 2016 which is being carried over to cover some of the Post 2017 Expenses. Our expenses budgets for the Post and Bingo remained basically unchanged except a slight increase in a few categories and a couple of additions.

Copies of the Post Budget with detailed line item information are available to any member by contacting me by e-mail at e_pietsch@msn.com or by calling me at 720-287-2108.

Mike Romero - Chaplain:

Adreann Palmquist, the wife of Past Commander, **John U. Palmquist** would like to thank all who sent cards, letters and donations to her, and the All Veterans Honor Guard, in memory of **John**, and thanks you for your comforting words to her, and her family in their time of sorrow.

Let us all say prayers for **Ward Oliver**, during this time that he is experiencing with his health. **Ward** is a Post 103 member, and a very loyal Bingo Volunteer.

Let's keep these members and all members in our thoughts and prayers.

If you know of anyone needing a visit or call, contact me at: 303-973-2493 or email me at: mjromero44@gmail.com

American Legion Post 103 1st Quarter Closure Report for the 2016 Veteran Trust Fund.

During the month of October, Post 103 assisted four veterans in need.

Two veterans were helped with housing, using \$5,450 from the VA Veterans Assistance Grant. Two veterans were given rent assistance using \$3,300 from the Post 103 Veterans and Family Assistance Fund.

Respectfully Submitted by John Mullin.

2nd Vice Commander Joyce Tuepker:

Worked with Sherry and Ed Pietsch on the banquet which was held on 12 November. Could not have gotten everything done without their tremendous help.

Have started to work on the Oratorical. Will resume work once I return from vacation.

Attended the Oratorical briefing/training session held in Denver, CO with Roger Masse and Janelle Rodriguez.

Participated in the Veterans Day ceremony at the Ketring Park WW2 Memorial.

Continued to work bingo on Thursdays at Slammers

Harry Giglio – Commander, AVHG:

The AVHG had 21 services for the month of November. The breakdown was WWII 6 , Korea 6, Vietnam 7, and Gulf War 1. We have had a total of 229 services since January. The breakdown year to date is WWII 72 , Korea 9, Vietnam 88, Gulf war 6, Memorial 4.

Also let your families know that our Post 103 All Veterans Honor Guard Unit is available to do services at Ft Logan on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of every week, if the need arises.

You can contact me if you have any questions.

Lynn Peterson - Legion Baseball: Post 103 Sponsored Teams

Post 103 Sponsored Teams

No Report

Statewide - Colorado American Legion Baseball (CALB)

The 2017 & 2018 American Legion Baseball (ALB) Western Region 8 Tournament will be Hosted by Department of Colorado's CALB Program. CALB will be looking for Fundraising & Post Donation(s); including Post Member Volunteer Assistance. More Tournament & Volunteer information will be forthcoming in the next several months. In the interim, any Interested Post 103 Legionnaire Baseball Fans & Supporters should Contact Lynn E. Peterson (lepeterson47@comcast.net, 720-841-5079).

Veteran Service Officer- John Mullen:

Due to back problems, I find myself unable to drive (or sit, or stand) for any length of time. I will not be able to attend tonight's meeting. Here is my VSO report:

Using VA Grant funds:

Helped two veterans with rent \$1680

Purchased King Soopers gift cards. \$485

Using Post 103 funds:

Helped one veteran with rent.

I have requested our second Grant replenishment. I have begun the application for the 2017/2018 Grant. Currently, the plan is to request increasing the grant allowance by \$10,000. Total amount requested for next year will be \$40,000.

JAG – Joel Mendelson: No Report.

Ed Pietsch – Bingo Manager: We all knew last week was going to be bad following a Must Go, plus another Must Go was scheduled for last Thursday night, we had a \$900 supply bill, etc. etc. etc.

Well it was not nearly as bad as I anticipated - we had a loss but it was not as bad as I figured it was going to be, we loss -\$378.

But the good news is that I received a call from Ward Oliver and he was very upbeat. His cancer Doctor just informed him they would be trying a new treatment on him. He said he was going to try to make it into Bingo again.

If you have questions please call Ed Pietsch at 720-287-2108, Cal Wilson 303-470-7206 or our newest managers, Joyce Tuepker, 303-948-9916, Harry Ciruli at 720-287-2139 and Roger Masse 719-648-2818.

Historian – Joel Mendelson: Motion: Proposed by Ed Pietsch, Seconded by Mike Romero, As our Holiday Project, I move that the Post donate \$500 each to the Redistribution Center to assist needy military families and veterans and their families during the holiday period and to the House of Purpose church for their support to veterans at the VA Medical Center and also homeless people in Denver.

Four new members were sworn into Post 103

Greg Boyer, Chris Bredeson, A.W. Schnellbacker, Brian O’neill





Attending our Membership Meeting was:
Retired Air Force Bomb Dog named “Hous”
Escorted by Owner John Neuroth



The following interview was performed by 2nd Vice Commander Joyce Tuepker. Mr. Jim Downing, author of *The Other Side of Infamy* at 103 years old, is the second oldest survivor of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He was stationed on the USS West Virginia. Mr. Downing held a book signing today at the Tattered Cover, Aspen Grove in Littleton, CO. I was fortunate to be able to meet Mr. Downing and shake his hand. I was also lucky enough to have my picture taken with him. It was a great honor. His stories are amazing.



SAL State Chaplain Nick Arceo receiving an Award on behalf of Squadron 103.

SAL Commander – Nick Arceo:



Nick Arceo, Squadron Commander
nicrco@ gmail.com

Good day Sons! As we near the close of another year, I want to thank each and every one of you for all your help supporting the American Legion and their programs. Your efforts do not go unnoticed. Last month I attended the annual SAL awards banquet. Our squadron received two awards for Americanism. Great job to all! It's great to be a part of the American Legion family. Our squadron continues to grow towards our goal. We are now at 13 members, thank you. It's time to pay your dues if you have not already done so. SAL yearly dues are \$15.00. Remember you can join the Sons and become a dual member. What a great way to honor your Father or Grandfather. I pray that each of you have a blessed Christmas. Remember to thank a Veteran for their service to our great country. God bless you and God bless the United States of American.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

"...To Adopt in Letter and Spirit all the Great Principles for which the AMERICAN LEGION Stands and to assist in carrying on for God and Country."



Darlene Romero, President

303-973-2493



darlene_romero@msn.com

At our December 7th meeting we had 9 members. We brought lots of goodies to share with the post members to celebrate the upcoming Holidays.

Our members are still bringing warm clothes for our Vets at the VA. We will be delivering them within the next two weeks. Our Unit donated \$200.00 to buy clothes for both men and women.

We're still collecting food for the Redistribution Center. January's item is diapers, large and small, or any food item you have on hand. Also, pop can tops, empty small printer cartridges, canceled stamps, plastic grocery bags, and travel size toiletries.

Upcoming Events:

Post Breakfast at the Englewood Elks Lodge January 14th. Cost is \$5.00 and you can bring a guest.

Midyear Conference, January 19-21st. at the Crown Plaza Hotel DIA, Denver, CO

If you would like to join our Auxiliary Unit or come to one of our meetings, you can call Darlene Romero at: 303-973-2493.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Darlene Romero

Auxiliary President, Unit 103