



"For God and Country"



"United We Stand"

George C. Evans Post #103 "The Leader Post"

Newsletter

The American Legion
P.O. Box 281
Littleton, CO 80160

January 3, 2018

Editor, Al Rodriguez

Email: alrodriguez@csudh.edu



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS:

Alonzo F. Rodriguez



I trust you all had a peaceful and restful Holiday. With January comes the traditional time to set new resolutions or remember the ones we didn't quite get accomplished and add them to our list.

Among your list I hope you'll consider helping in your own way the many thousands of Veterans and their families who struggle from day to day. Fellow comrades with injuries incurred during the line of duty whether physical or emotional and others in need of shelter and food. We all owe a debt of gratitude to ALL veterans for the privileges we have.

As the Post enters into a new calendar year, we see challenges and opportunities ahead. Among those challenges is to meet our 2018 Membership Goal of 401 members. We are close but there still remains a number of our comrades who need to submit their dues. I am confident they will do so in the next few months.

Among the opportunities that lay ahead are the Post and State Oratorical contests, Boy's and Girl's State, legion Baseball and scholarships for sons/daughters/grandchildren of our veterans. If you need an application for consideration of one of the scholarships, go to our web site at

www.legionpost103.org and click on Veterans Scholarships.

As we move forward, we hope you might come to at least one meeting of the Post or join us for Breakfast if you have not done so, so we can introduce ourselves to you.

There are a number of activities that we engage in and if you're interested, contact the Executive Member in charge. Their email and phone number is listed at the end of the newsletter.

Don't forget our next Breakfast is January 13 !!

Executive Board/General Assembly Meeting/ Breakfast Dates

Jan 13	Post Breakfast	9:00 AM	*Elks Lodge
Feb 5	Executive Board	6:30 PM	Buck Center
Feb 7	General Assembly	7:00 PM	Buck Center
Mar 3	Post Breakfast	9:00 AM	*Elks Lodge
Mar 6	Executive Board	6:30 PM	Buck Center
Mar 7	General Assembly	7:00 PM	Buck Center
Apr 3	Executive Board	6:30 PM	Buck Center
Apr 4	General Assembly	7:00 PM	Buck Center
Apr 30	Executive Board	6:30 PM	Buck Center
May 2	General Assembly	7:00 PM	Buck Center
May 12	Post Breakfast	9:00 AM	*Elks Lodge
Jun 5	Executive Board	6:30 PM	Buck Center
Jun 6	General Assembly	7:00 PM	Buck Center

*Englewood Elks Lodge, 3690 Jason Englewood



“We do not need magic to change the world, we carry all the power we need inside ourselves already: we have the power to imagine better.”

J.K. Rowling (2008)

Auxiliary - Sherry Pietsch (President)

Hope everyone had a nice holiday season.

We had several projects that we donated to or participated in during December. We donated to the VA Hospital Gift Shop for veterans. This is a Department event that has happen for many years. Each veteran who is staying at the hospital receives a voucher to be used to purchase a gift from the Gift Shop. We also donated to another part of the VA hospital to patients that could not leave their ward or have visitors. Our SAL Commander, Nick Acero arranged for these patients to receive gift bags from our Legion Family. Commander Acero told me that the patients were very thankful for the goodies inside the gift bags. Our last event was held at Fort Logan, where we participated in the “Wreaths Across America”. We placed several wreaths on graves of Auxiliary and Legion members. There were over 2,000 people participating in this event. It was a beautiful site seeing over 16,000 wreaths on the graves. A big thank you to Shauna Townsend, Darlene Romero and Ed Pietsch for helping me place wreaths. Please look at the Legion Facebook page for pictures.

Remember breakfast is this Saturday, January 13th at 9am at the Elks Club in Englewood.

Please feel free to contact me anytime.

Adjutant - Al Rodriguez

As of January 3, we have 380 paid members about 95% of reaching our goal. We exceeded the Department goal of achieving 70% by the December 15 deadline.

I know that several of you have not yet sent in your 2018 dues of \$40 and I strongly encourage you to do so today.

Send your check to the address listed at the top of this newsletter and receive your new membership card.

On January 3, we had 1 Legionnaire who was initiated into our Post, **Robert (Bob) Letourneau**.

Welcome Comrade to our Post!

At the General Meeting, Dean Casey made a motion to donate \$100 for the next 5 years to the Backpacks of Mercy, a service organization whose “mission is to show mercy to those less fortunate in Urban Denver with a prepared essentials backpack”. It was seconded by Brian O’Neill. There were several concerns expressed. A friendly motion was made; however, while Dean accepted the friendly motion the Seconded did not. The motion failed. Members asked that the Commander contact the President of the Organization and ask him to come to Februarys meeting and explain in detail how this program directly assists veterans and/or their families and explain more about the virtues of the program.

Dean Casey also shared with the members that a letter of support signed by the heads of 9 service organizations including the American Legion, Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Assoc. was sent to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The letter outlines the need to support the health care of the “*Blue Water sailors*” who were exposed to Agent Orange while serving in the territorial seas off Vietnam. They are not being taken care of.

Joe Hollowell a Vietnam veteran was present at the meeting. Joe joined our Post and became a member for the first time. Also present was a potential new SAL member **Connor Laney**. We were glad to have you all with us and look forward to your return.

A **HUGE** THANK YOU to our Auxiliary for purchasing and placing wreaths at the burial sites of 15 of our past members and family members of members. Ft Logan is where the majority of wreaths were placed and thousands of others were placed by volunteers. *Wreaths Across America* provided the remaining wreaths. Over 20,000 wreaths were placed at burial sites.

1st Vice Commander - Joel Mendelson

Membership / Recruitment

As of January 2, we are at 94.76% of reaching our membership goal. Post cards and emails have been sent to 2017 members who have not yet paid. I'm hoping that now that the holidays are over, non-paid members will send in their dues.

I have received permission from the Manager of a local King Soopers to set up and try to speak with potential members to our Post. I expect this to happen in - just need to try to pick a warm enough Saturday.

I'm also going to call ACE Hardware again to try to secure a warm Saturday in February and speak with veterans about joining our Post.

I began planning for a DMS in April at the Englewood Elks Lodge. I will be contacting Pat Smith and Tom Bock at Headquarters as well as Kristi at the ELKs to try and get their support and cooperation.

I continue to work weekly at our Post's Thursday Slammer Bingo sessions.

2nd Vice Commander - Steve Valdez

Nothing to report

Chaplain - Mike Romero

Ward Oliver, the itching is still giving him problems, but has lessened with the medication

his doctor prescribed. He's still in very good spirits and had a great holiday season, he tells me to tell all the bingo volunteers he thinks of them often, and has all in his prayers.

Duane Leiker, is still having problems with his feet, he is on water pills to help with the swelling. He also is off and on with shoulder pain, just depends on the day. He sends his regards to all the AVHG, and says he'd love to get out there again.

Frank Horacek III, is out of the hospital and says as soon as he is stronger, would like to start attending membership meetings again.

Bob Daly, had surgery on a detached retina, and is doing well. He said he's ready for bowling.

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

NOTE: we currently have these medical items available for loan to our Post Members.

Canes: 2 adjustable, 3 non-adjustable. **Walkers:** 5 non-wheeled. **Wheel Chairs:** 1 with foot-rests, 1 without. **Motorized Chairs:** 2. **Shower Chair:** 1 Adjustable.

Bedside Commode: 1 adjustable.

Don't let your failures or the adversity you face slow you down. Keep Moving Forward.

Rocky Balboa, the title character (played by Sylvester Stallone, 2006)

Finance Officer - Ed Pietsch

Post Income and Expenses

Post income and expenses were both about \$1200 in December. Income was predominantly from membership renewals and donations to the All Veterans Honor Guard (AVHG). Post expenses were primarily from membership, the AVHG and office supplies.

At the December Membership Meetings, the membership approved the 2018 budget that we are now operating under. Any member wishing a copy may contact me.

2018 Scholarship Information

The Post will again be awarding two \$2,000 Claire Davis Memorial Scholarships (limited to Arapahoe High School students) and eight \$1,000 Descendants of Veterans Scholarships in 2018. The new scholarships application information will be posted on the top right corner of the Post webpage (www.legionpost103.org) this month.

If you have a child, grand child or great grandchild that will be graduating from high school this year regardless of where they live, they may qualify for the Descendants of Veterans Scholarships. Also, if you have a neighbor who is a high school senior and lives in our Post service area and is a descendant of a veteran, they may qualify. Any questions regarding these scholarships or to receive a direct copy of the application package, please call Ed Pietsch 720-287-2108 or email me.

“In his 2011 U Penn commencement speech, Denzel Washington highlighted three reasons why we need to embrace failure in order to be successful. First, everybody will fail at something at some point, so you better get used to it. Second, if you never fail, take that as a sign that you're not really trying. And third, at the end of the day, failure will help you figure out what path you want to be on.” Denzel Washington, 2011, *Fall Forward*

Service Officer - Joe Cordova

We provided funds through our Grant and assisted one veteran with rent.

All Veterans Honor Guard - Harry Giglio

The All Veterans Honor Guard had 16 services for the month of December. The breakdown was WWII 5, Korea 4, Vietnam 5, Gulf War 2 Memorial 0. The breakdown for branches of

service for December was Army 12, Air Force 2 and Marines 2. We have had a total of **251** services for the year a new high for the team. The breakdown year to date is WWII 64, Korea 73, Vietnam 103, Gulf War 10 and Memorial Service 1. The breakdown for branches of service for the year was Coast Guard 3, Army 110, Navy 59, Air Force 57 and Marines 22.

Let your families know that Post 103 All Veterans Honor Guard will be available to do services at Ft Logan on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of every week. You can contact me at 303-246-7648.

JAG - Joel Mendelson

Nothing to report.

SAL - Nick Arceo

Good day Sons! As we close out 2017, I want to thank you for all your help supporting The American Legion and their programs. You really made a difference.

Last month, The Sons had their annual Awards Banquet. Squadron 103 faired very well taking home seven awards including Americanism, Children and Youth, Membership, VA&R and Membership! Great job everyone!

Please join us the first Wednesday of the month as we meet with the Legion for our monthly meeting. The meeting is from 7-8 p.m. at The Buck Center in Old Downtown Littleton. We are always looking for new members and welcome you to join us. If your Father or Grandfather served in the military you may be eligible to join the Sons.

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. God Bless you and Your Family. Please take time this season to reflect on the true meaning of the Holidays. Be thankful for your Freedom living in the greatest Country on the face of the earth. And most importantly remember our Veterans at home and around the

World. Say a prayer for the POWs/MIAs around the world. I look forward to great things next year! There is plenty of work to be done for Veteran's and their Families, come join us in this venture. If I can answer any questions please contact me.

Historian - Chris Bredesen

I have no report.

BINGO - Ed Pietsch

In December we had our most profitable Must Go Bingo Jackpot session in the nine years we have been doing Progressive Bingo. This will hopefully provide some positive momentum for 2018 as our 2017 totals were less than our totals for each of the prior three years. This drop in Post revenue in 2017 was primarily due to customers winning the Progressive Bingo Jackpot (twice) prior to having a Must Go.

We have a lot of outstanding programs in the Post and many of these would not be possible if we did not have Bingo as our primary source of funding. Please thank the Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL members who volunteer each Thursday at Bingo.

If you would like to help, we could use you. Please call Ed Pietsch at 720-287-2108 or email me at e_pietsch@msn.com, if interested.

Department News

The Department will hold its Mid-Year Conference on January 26 - 28 at the Arvada Hilton Garden Inn, 5455 Olde Wadsworth Blvd. Elected Board members are expected to attend. Please refer to the agenda sent to you.

Executive Board Members/Auxiliary President

Post Officers	
Alonzo (Al) Rodriguez, Cmdr.	alrodriguez@csudh.edu
Joel Mendelson, 1st Vice	bigdaddyjdm@comcast.net
Steve Valdez, 2 nd Vice	Steve.Valdez52@gmail.com
Mike Romero, Chaplain	mjromero44@gmail.com
Ed Pietsch, Finance Officer	E_Pietsch@msn.com
Joe Cordova, Service Officer	joedcordova@yahoo.com
Wayne Arguello, Sgt-at-Arms	wyn54@msn.com
Chris Bredesen, Historian	holyarc_angels22@yahoo.com
Joel Mendelson, Judge Ad.	bigdaddyjdm@comcast.net
Harry Giglio, Cmdr. AVHG	harrygiglio@comcast.net
Nick Arceo, SAL Cmdr	nicrco@gmail.com
Sherry Pietsch, Aux. Pres.	sherrypietsch@msn.com

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Dated Material