

View from Post 119



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Diane Rayburn, Editor

Estes Park, Colorado

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Jeff Van Bogaert, Publisher

Happy 91st Birthday

By Jacquie Halburnt, Post Commander

This year the American Legion is celebrating its 91st birthday. Thanks to everyone who joined us March 20th to help celebrate this milestone. The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, war-time veteran's organization, devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is a not-for-profit community-service organization which now numbers nearly 3 million members, men and women, in nearly 15,000 American Legion posts worldwide. We are a community-based organization that relies on the help of volunteers.

Post Everlasting Ceremony



In conjunction with our annual birthday party we also held the Post Everlasting Ceremony. It was a special memorial for our departed comrades of the American Legion. We honored Auxiliary members Joan Banker, Cynthia Hays, and Enda Mills Kiley and Legion member Brent Rytting

who passed away in the last year. May Joan, Cindy, Enda and Brent rest in peace and forever be remembered. They are gone but not forgotten and we miss them terribly. *Pictured above left are Post Chaplin Frank Faiella and Post Commander Jacquie Halburnt.*

Constitution and By-law Changes

The Post is considering changes to its constitution and by-laws. These changes were read and discussed at the March Post Meeting and will be considered for approval at the April Post meeting. If you have any input into these changes, please contact Commander Halburnt or show up at the meeting on April 14th at 1900 in the Legion Hall.

Proposed changes to the Constitution include:

Article IV, Section 2, C.: Removing the statement that the adjutant will be paid \$25 per month and changing the words "security bond" to "surety bond."

Article IV, Section 5: A statement was added to clarify that officers may serve without term limits. Except the Commander, who may only serve two consecutive terms.

Article V, Section 1: Clarified that members present at an Executive Committee meeting represent a quorum.

Article V, Section 3: Included an emergency purchase clause for items over \$200.01 which requires emergency approval by the Commander or Adjutant, with official approval at the next Post meeting.

Article VII, Section 3: Clarified that Post meeting times/days will be determined after each July election by the Post Commander.

Article VII, Section 4: Removed the dollar amount attached to Post dues and stated they will be determined on an annual basis.

Article VII, Section 12, F: Changed "security bond" to "surety bond"

Proposed changes to the By-laws include:

Article II, Section 1: Change the number of House Committee members from three (3) to six (6).

You may review the proposed changes on our website at www.estespost119.org.

Legion Dues Process

By Jeff Van Bogaert, Post Adjutant

The Legion year is the calendar year, which is why the top of your card shows the year for which you have paid dues. However, the dues collection process begins in the July proceeding the Legion year. Those Legion members paying their dues before October 1 of the preceding year get an “Early Bird” stamp on their card, in recognition of their early support for the Legion.

All dues are to be sent to the Legion through the Post. It usually takes a week or two before you get your card after the Post receives your dues.

All of the dues notices are sent out by the American Legion National Headquarters, and are based on their receipt **and posting** of members' dues. The bottom of the dues notices show an “as of” date, which is usually two or three weeks preceding the mailing date. For unknown reasons, it can take in excess of two months for National to post dues.

Have you gotten a dues notice, and you think you have already paid your dues? The easiest way to determine if the Post has gotten your dues is to look at your most recent membership card. If it is for the year for which dues are requested, the Post has gotten your dues, and you can throw out the notice, National just had not posted them by the “as of” date. If you mailed in your dues more than three week previously and haven't received your annual membership card from the Post, then contact the Post Adjutant for clarification.

Club News

By Amy Grewe, Club Manager

Our birthday party (Saturday, March 20th) was lightly attended, but everyone had a good time. At the party, the club presented certificates of appreciation to the following members for their volunteering during the past year:

- **Brian Cantu** and **Nick Johnson** – Estes Custom Hardwoods (these two refinished our hall floor)
- **Bill Swan** – for all his help in the club with electrical issues and new gaming room and office
- **Homer Johnson** and **Brian Thibodeaux** – for their help with the new gaming room and office.
- **Stewart Newman** – who is always willing to lend a helping hand – above and beyond
- **Renee Sigrist** – painted the gaming room and office
- **Pete Henderson** – built shelving in the basement

and is always helping with something, anything, & everything!

- **Sherry Green** – again, always willing to help wherever needed (especially with community projects)
- **Sons of the American Legion** – too many sons to mention individually, so we gave a group award – our Club continues to be successful with the constant help and Support of the our Sons!
- **Bill & Maddie Burcaw** – always willing to help us procure food for our meals
- **Linda & Stan Guzzy** – who step in to cook and serve meals whenever needed
- **Frank & MaryLou Faiella** – always willing to help in the kitchen or whatever is needed
- **Greg Green** – repaired our gutters, installed carpet, and too many other projects to count
- **Rhonda & Derrick Harding** – Derrick helped with the gutter job, and both often help in kitchen
- **Russell Stephens** – always ready to help with anything needed, and helps Amy cook whenever needed
- **Dan Doylen – Master Graphics** is our go-to for all printing needs. Thank you!
- **Jeb Shoemaker – Polar Gas** – provides us with gas for our grill
- **Jesse Cantu** – shows up every Friday to help in the kitchen
- **Ladies Auxiliary** – another group in the Legion family who is always willing to do whatever is needed – again, too many to list individually – thanks to all!
- **Legion Honor Guard** (Brian Cantu, Sharyn Gartner, Dink Oversteg, Jeff Van Bogaert, Ralph Walls and D.J. Weber) – these members provide our Post with a visible presence in local parades, various Post ceremonies, and a firing party for funerals.

Certificates were presented to the above members. If anyone in a group would like an individual certificate printed, please let me know. These names certainly do not list EVERYONE who ever helps us, it is simply a list of the members who helped the MOST! Thanks to these members, as well as everyone else who has helped out in the past year. I am sure I have forgotten to

specifically mention a few people, so if I did do that, please forgive my oversight and accept my profound apologies and thanks!

On an April date yet to be determined we will be hosting a “meet-and-greet” with a group of soldiers of the **1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division**, from Fort Carson who are coming to pick up a shipment of our Soldier’s Boxes. Since the US Customs Department has issued new and extremely limiting mailing restrictions for boxes sent to soldiers, we have partnered with Fort Carson and will be sending our boxes with a deployed brigade going to Afghanistan. The boxes will be put in their shipping containers and shipped with the brigade. They will then be passed out to soldiers stationed in remote outposts who will be living in austere conditions and in great need of our supplies. We plan to send a few boxes to soldiers whose addresses we have already collected, but the bulk of our supplies will be going with a brigade whenever we are ready to send them. We are very excited about this new development in our Soldier’s Boxes Program. We are going to invite the entire community to come out and meet these brave and courageous soldiers whom we are “adopting.” We hope you will all join us and if anyone wants to help with this party, please contact Amy Grewe at the Club, or E-mail her at estespost119@hotmail.com.

Helpful Phone Numbers

From The Editor – Diane Rayburn

Here are some toll free telephone numbers from the Department of Veterans Services that may help you find information you need. Also, don’t forget I am the Post Service Officer for the 2009-2010 year for any help you need. Contact me at ps0@estespost119.org or estesdi@gmail.com, or call me at 970-586-6553.

Toll-Free Services

- Benefits Information & Assistance 800-827-1000
- Health Care 877-222-8387
- Education & Training 888-442-4551
- VA Life Insurance 800-669-8477
- Office of SGLI 800-419-1473
- CHAMPVA 800-733-8387
- Helpline 800-749-8387
- (Agent Orange & Gulf War)Direct Deposit
877-838-2778
- Headstones (status of claims only) 800-697-6947
- Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD)

We Need Your Help

Would you like to get more involved with the Legion? We want you! If you are a Legion member, please consider a position on our Board. We have the following positions available:

Post Commander – general supervision of affairs, runs meetings

Senior Vice Commander – assumes commander role in absence

Junior Vice Commander – responsible for Post entertainment and public functions.

Adjutant – charged with membership and meeting minutes

Finance Officer – charged with keeping all Post funds

Post Historian – charged with keeping records

Service Officer – carry on Post’s veteran’s services programs

Chaplain – spiritual welfare of Post Comrades

Sergeant-at-Arms – custodian of ceremonial property

We will vote at the Post meeting in May. Please contact Commander Halburnt for more information or if you think you can help us out! We’d really appreciate it. We are a group of volunteers and we are only as good as the people who help us!

Tentative 2010-2011 Post Officer Nominations

Commander: Jacqueline Halburnt

Senior Vice Commander: Jeff Van Bogaert

Junior Vice Commander: Jim Odell

Adjutant: None

Finance Officer: Richard (Dink) Oversteg

Service Officer(s): Bill King, Bob Palissard

Chaplain: Frank Faiella

Sgt-at-Arms: D.J. Weber

Historian: None

50 Years Continuous Membership Certificate

Thomas W. Keffeler of Post 119 was recently awarded a certificate from the American Legion recognizing his 50 years of continuous Legion membership. The certificate says in part “...and be it

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further known that such record of consistent loyalty to the American Legion merits the honor of being cited as an outstanding contributor to the programs of the American Legion.”

Shipboard Trivia

Contributed by Bill Dye

Bucket of Steam: Usually available for the asking from any boiler room below the third deck while the ship is underway.

Equator: Horizontal line separating the northern and southern hemispheres. Used to determine the direction of liquids when poured down a drain-clockwise or counter clockwise?

International Date Line: Vertical line in the Pacific used to separate the beginning of one day and the ending of another. Visible only at sunrise or sunset.

Puget Sound: Becomes audible when a ship is heading East through the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The best acoustics for hearing it are located on the forward section of the flight deck near the bow.

Golden Rivet: The last rivet driven while the ship is under construction. Located by keel plate near frame number 104.

Sky Hook: Device used for lifting float planes from the water when the aviation crane is not in operation.

Mail Buoys: Anchored buoys scattered along the sea lanes of the Pacific and used as a drop off for outgoing mail only.

Striker for Electrician's Mate: Qualification for third

class petty officer required ability to screw a light bulb into a socket without stripping the threads.

Rope Yarn Sunday: Time reserved on Wednesday afternoon to clean up personal gear and reorganize contents of your ditty bag.

Locker Stick: Used to swirl unsorted personal gear stored in your locker until the item needed rises to the surface.

The Wind

OH THE WIND, THE WIND
IT BLOWS AND BLOWS!
IT REDDENS MY NOSE
AND FREEZES MY TOES!
IT BITES, IT STINGS
IT BELLOWS AND FLINGS!
IT SNARLS AND GROWLS
IT LAUGHS AND HOWLS!
IT SNATCHES AND GRABS
AND LAUGHS AND JABS!
IT'S UP, IT'S DOWN
IT'S AROUND AND AROUND!
MY FRIEND – THE WIND!!!!

Diane L. Rayburn, 1/14/2005