

View from Post 119



Volume 2009, Issue 1

Estes Park, Colorado
Diane Rayburn, Editor

December 2009

Season's Greetings!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and to let you know that we at Joseph J. Duncan, Jr. Post 119 are going to resurrect our newsletter! This will be our first issue in many years, and we hope to be able to make this a quarterly newsletter. Any suggestions, comments or ideas will also be greatly appreciated! This is your newsletter - let's make it what you want it to be! *Diane Rayburn, Editor*

Tellme/Tellyou

We want to tell you what's happening at the Post, and we want you to tell us what's important to you. We are doing three things to make this easier.

First, we have set up a new Post website at www.estespost119.org. We try to keep it current, with the current month's activities listed on the **At The Post** page. We also have articles about the activities of the Post and our members, as well as links to useful military and veteran-related websites.

Second, we are reestablishing the Post newsletter. We are seeking articles to include, and while this first newsletter will be only a couple of pages, we encourage anyone who wants to have articles published, to E-mail them to newsletter@estespost119.org, mail them to the Post, or drop a copy by the Legion Hall.

The current newsletter will be posted to the website, and previous newsletters will be posted in a newsletter archive.

Third, we are asking that you send your E-mail address to the Adjutant at adjutant@estespost119.org so that we can send you timely notices of Post activities or changes in the Post schedule. We will also send you a link to the current newsletter on the website, which will cut down on postage costs for the Post. When you send the Adjutant your E-address, please also tell him if you do not want to receive the Newsletter by E-mail notification. Your E-address will not be used for any purpose other than to communicate Legion news.

Post 119 to Participate in Junior Shooting Sports Program

Post 119 will be participating in the *American Legion's Junior Shooting Sports Program*. Teaching someone to shoot also teaches them self control and personal responsibility. The Post has the necessary equipment, and is working with the **Estes Park Gun & Archery Club** for use of their Indoor Range, located near the Dog Park. Participants will be trained using air rifles. The program consists of two components: firearms safety, and position shooting and competition. At this time we anticipate that the classes will be held at the EPG&AC Indoor range after school.

Anyone interested in helping with this program as an

instructor, assistant instructor, or in any other capacity, or who can help with equipment or supplies, please contact Jeff Van Bogaert at 970-402-9502 or at jvanb@estespost119.org.

From the Post Service Officer

Diane Rayburn is Post 119's **Post Service Officer (PSO)** for the 2009-2010 term.

Diane's goal during this time is to be able to reach veterans, their family members and anyone wanting to assist them, by several different methods.

From the *2007 Post Service Officers Guide*: "The purpose of the PSO is to be an initial point of contact regarding veteran issues by providing veterans in the community where the post is located with basic information and assistance, including referral as directed by the Department (State level) Service Officer. Given the complexity and broad range of rules that govern VA benefits, it is critically important for the PSO to work with the professional American Legion DSO and ensure any paperwork submitted to the veteran is forwarded to the DSO in a timely manner, to ensure proper service."

Diane hopes to be able to have this same information printed in the two local papers, as well as an announcement on the radio. She is here to help you! Please contact her with any questions and concerns by writing her at the Post, calling her at 970-586-6553, or E-mailing her at pso@estespost119.org or at estesdi@gmail.com.

Are Your Legion Dues Current?

The Legion dues year is the calendar year. Legionnaires should look at the label on this newsletter. The number to the right of your name shows the last year for which you paid dues. If the number after your name is not '10, please send your \$40 dues for each year below '10 to the Post Adjutant. Please put your member number (found on your membership card) on the check.. If you have any questions you can contact the adjutant at adjutant@estespost119.org or by calling the Post and leaving a callback number.

Seeking a WWII Veteran

From the Department Adjutant – There is a High School student in the Denver area that wants to interview a WWII vet for his class history project. If you are interested please email cpatsmith@coloradolegion.org or call him at 303-366-5201 and he will pass the name and number of the student along to you. The student says he has only 15 questions to ask and it can be done by email if you wish. Thanks for your consideration. *Pat Smith, Dept Adjutant*

Happy Holidays from your Club Manager!

“I am very excited about our new newsletter. Hopefully, we can now keep everyone “in the loop” and even encourage some of our members that we haven’t seen in a while to participate in some activities”, says Amy.

Our dinners have been very popular and have made quite a bit of income for the Club this past year and for the groups who have helped. The **Sons** have been serving steaks every second Friday and have turned that date into a big moneymaker! From that one project alone they were recently able to donate several \$500 checks to charities around town and the state. However, with so many of our members “snow birding” down to warmer climates, the dinners have slowed down. We are going to keep the two most popular dinners and begin serving steaks on the **second Friday** and fried chicken on the **third Friday**, throughout the winter. If anyone would like to help cook or serve, please let me know. We could certainly use the help! We will begin having dinners every Friday again in the spring.

FYI, on Friday, New Years Day, January 1st, 2010, we will be serving a traditional New Years Dinner with Whiskey-ed Ham, Black-Eyed Peas, Greens, Kraut, Candied Yams, and Cornbread. This will be served at our normal dinnertime of 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm and the cost will be \$9.00 per plate. If anyone wants to bring a desert to share, that would be wonderful!

There are many programs at the Legion that need someone to step up and take them over. One in particular, is our **Soldiers in the Field Boxes** program. The letters and thank-you cards that we receive from soldiers after a mailing is just incredible. This program is FULL of instant gratification, as well as knowing what a good thing we are doing. We have around 70 boxes filled and ready to mail. One thing we still need is addresses of soldiers to mail them to. If you know of anyone stationed overseas, please get their addresses and lets mail them a care package! Also, if anyone would like to steward this program, we could sure use your help! Again, there are dozens of projects around the Club that need your help. Please lend a hand to your Club.

I want to thank the dozen or so members who have been here, always willing to help out with whatever we need. You know who you are. To the rest of our members, I would like to ask for your participation in making our Club better in and showing the community that we are so much more than “just a bar!” In our next newsletter, Amy will provide a list of programs and needs. She welcomes everyone to participate in any way that they can.

Ladies Auxiliary

New officers for the year are Amy Grewe, President; Sherry Rytting, Vice President; Sandy Mourning, Treasurer; Sharyn Gardner, Chaplin; Cathy Swedlund, Secretary; Dena Bohn,

Historian; and Angie Steichen, Sergeant-at-Arms.

Most recently, our Tiny Tots program was a huge success with around 150 children coming in to have their picture taken with Santa. Also, last month, for Education Week, we delivered fruit baskets to the schools for the workers and teachers. Huge kudos to Sherry Green for asking for and obtaining fruit for the baskets from Safeway; as well as candy from Country Market and Caramel Crisp for the Tiny Tots. Pete Henderson made a great Santa Claus, and all the helpers and elves and Dena Bohn as Mrs. Claus deserve a huge THANK YOU for making it such a great day for the kiddies! Special thanks to everyone who helped the Auxiliary make these two events so much fun and so successful!

Dena Bohn coordinated with the Fine Arts Guild and the Ladies Auxiliary to present a hilarious play in the hall in October. It was a huge success! The Auxiliary was presented with a check from this event for over \$500. We look forward to more of Dena’s fantastic endeavors in the future.

The Auxiliary is looking forward to a great year and bringing back many members who have not been active in the past.

Son’s of The American Legion

The Sons have been very active this past year in helping provide kitchen workers to the Club. They took over the second week of dinners as a “Son’s Dinner Night” and have been serving steaks on those Fridays. They raised enough money from those dinners to be able to provide the following donations to the community: Estes Park Metro Wrestling – \$500; Project Sanctuary – \$500; Crossroads Ministry – \$500; Child Welfare Fund – \$500; Fischer House – \$500; and EP High School Marching Band – \$100. They also recently donated firewood (\$225) to a family-in-crisis. As soon as the weather clears up a bit, they are going to add a recycling station to the Club and improve the dumpster pad out front to accommodate the recycling efforts.

The several members that have been helping are getting a bit worn out and the Son’s would like to ask that other members step up and help us help our Club! Thank you to all that have been here in the past and we look forward to all of us working together in the future. Lets have some fun helping others!

**Thursday, Christmas Eve – White Elephant Party
6:30pm – Bring an appetizer to share!**

**No Dinner Friday, CLOSED Christmas Day!
Happy Holidays!**

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